

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LX.]

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BIRTHS.

On the 2nd July, at Shanghai, the wife of M. HARMAN, China Inland Mission, of a son.
On the 4th July, at Shanghai, the wife of G. MASON BEYES, of a daughter.

On the 14th July, at No. 1, Morrison Hill, the wife of C. H. GRACE, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 8th June, at St. Luke's Church, Woodside, by the Rev. W. S. FLYNN, STANLEY, younger son of A. C. W. HOBMAN, of Dulwich and Bermondsey, to CATHERINE EMILY, third daughter of the late G. L. TOMLIN, of Hongkong, and Mrs. TOMLIN, of Woodside.

On the 23rd June, at St. John's Church, Weihaiwei, MATILDA KATE, second daughter of the late SAMUEL PARKHILL, of Chefoo, to GEORGE EDWIN, third son of JOHN LUPTON FURNESS, of High Wycombe, England.

DEATHS.

On the 26th June, at Soochow, MARY ISABELLA, relict of the late Rev. J. W. LAMBETH, D.D., interred in Old Cemetery, aged 72 years.

On the 30th June, at Hospital, Yokohama, ADDIE GORDON, wife of Rev. W. B. BURKE, of the Southern Methodist Mission of Shanghai.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Telegrams relating to the war will be found on p. 41.

Lord Curzon has been installed Warden of the Cinque Ports.

The Tibet Mission, advancing another stage, was allowed to occupy Dongtse unopposed. The final submission of the Tibetans is now anticipated.

A Canton rumour has it that Chang Chih Tung's modern drilled troops mutinied on the way to Kwangtung, and joined the rebels at a place called Linchow.

In the *Government Gazette* distributed on Saturday appears a revised scale in which are stipulated the medicines, &c., and quantities thereof, that must be taken to sea by Chinese passenger ships.

Mr. J. B. Scrivenor, geologist, F.M.S., "hedges" rather in his report on the gold mines of the Malay States. There is plenty of gold, but it is difficult of access, scattered, and expensive to get.

Gold, according to a correspondent in the *Times of Ceylon*, has been found in paying quantities in Ceylon. Unfortunately the owners of the land refuse to negotiate except on such terms as would cripple any industry.

Major Sir Matthew Nathan, K.C.M.G., was presented to his Majesty the King by the Secretary of State on the 7th ult. At the same levee Mr. Sidney Barton, of His Majesty's Consular Service in China, was presented.

Mr. Justice Wise was present on the 8th ult. at a dinner given at the Mansion House by the Lord Mayor to His Majesty's Judges. Sir Fielding Clarke, formerly of Hongkong, but now Chief Justice of Jamaica, was also present.

It is reported that Mr. G. A. I. Bosanquet, who was private secretary to Sir Frank and Sir Alexander Swettenham, when they were Governors of the Straits, is on the way to Southern Nigeria as private secretary to Mr. Walter Egerton.

The Governor of Hunan has sent up a memorial to Peking with the object of getting the Board of Revenue to set aside Tls. 300,000 to meet expenses in connection with the opening of Changsha to foreign trade in fulfilment of the Mackay Treaty.

An Act of Congress of the United States, providing that all freight and passengers between United States ports and the Philippine Islands and between ports of the Philippine Islands after July 1, 1906, shall be transported in American bottoms, has just become law.

Spurred by the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, the Shanghai Chamber is going to join the local body in another attempt to awaken the Diplomatic Body in Peking to a recognition of the necessity of doing something definite to bring about currency reform in China.

Two Sumatra planters in the *Pall Mall Gazette* accuse Mr. Stafford Ransome of telling "hideous lies" in that paper, about the treatment of Chinese coolies in Java and Sumatra. It looked like exaggeration to say that white planters could "shoot, thrash, and torture" with impunity.

The experiment of running the bar with Malay boys, instead of Chinese, is being tried at the Selangor Club.

Towkay Loke Yew has contributed a sum of \$30,000 towards the establishment of an Engineering School at Kuala Lumpur to be styled the "Loke Yew Engineering School." Practical lessons will be given at the Government Factory, while theoretical instruction will also be supplied by the Government.

It appears now that the troops that mutinied at Linchow, Kwangsi, are not members of the "Wuchien" Army as reported, but insurgents who had surrendered to the Government and had been trained into regulars, but have recently deserted. These men have since dispersed and no great trouble is anticipated.

We are officially authorised to state that subject to audit, the Directors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation will recommend at the forthcoming meeting a dividend of £1 10s. per share; add to the reserve fund \$500,000; write off property account \$200,000; and carry forward about \$1,500,000.

It is stated that Mrs. Mary Etzel, mother of Lewis Etzel of Denver, the war correspondent who was killed by Chinese soldiers, will file a claim against the Chinese Government for \$20,000 damages. The case has been put in the hands of attorneys, who will seek the aid of the State Department at Washington in enforcing the claim.

At the annual meeting of the Russo-Chinese Bank, to be held this month, the Directors will recommend the same dividend as last year, 8 per cent., and the usual appropriations to reserves. They will also recommend that a sum of two million roubles be set aside as a special reserve in view of the existing disturbance in the Far East.

It is reasonably suggested, by one thoroughly in touch with the matter, that few coolies will be found willing to go to South Africa until those already there send home reports to their villages as to the working and living conditions. Should these reports be favourable—of which there is little doubt—the mine-owners will be able to get as many workers as they want.

The Western Tombs, less than a day's march from Peking, are becoming quite popular as a place of pilgrimage. Mr. and Mrs. Conger, with a party of friends, have made a recent visit, and Professor Jenks and secretary anticipate a trip in the near future. The place is accessible by rail and furnishes many beautiful views of mountain scenery. The architecture seems to surpass anything seen at the Ming Tombs. The Western Tombs are located in the department of Ichou (celebrated for its tobacco).

It is reported that definite steps are at length being taken for the laying of the projected German-Dutch cable to connect the Dutch East Indies and the Pellew Islands (belonging to Germany) with Shanghai and the American cable to the Philippines. A German-Dutch syndicate is now being formed to carry the project into execution, the banks financing the scheme on the German side being the Disconto-Gesellschaft and the Darmstadt, Dresden, and Schoffhausen Banks. A company is to be formed with a capital of 7,000,000 marks (£350,000) in 4 per cent. bonds. Large subsidies have been promised from the German and Dutch Governments.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The French Mail of the 10th ult. arrived, per the s.s. *Oceanien* on the 12th inst.; and the English Mail of the 17th ult. arrived, per the s.s. *Simla* on Friday, the 15th inst.

CHINESE LABOUR: A NEW PHASE.

(Daily Press, 9th July.)

A new phase of the controversy that had concern in the question of Chinese labour for the Transvaal is presented for consideration by our colonial brethren of the Straits Settlements. It is no fresh high-falutin nonsense about slavery. There is no altruistic sentimentalism in it. It is a real, practical, commercial issue, rising like something less ornamentally useless than a phoenix, from the ashes of the merely smouldering controversy that perforce subsided in face of the accomplished fact. The new point has been raised, somewhat tardily, by the mining interests of the Straits, which are, it seems, suffering severely by a dearth of Chinese labour, and indeed, by a scarcity of labourers generally, including Tamils. This in face of the assurance that the immigration of coolies continues to increase. The Government was asked, we gather from the *Straits Times*, whether it was "aware" that the action of the Transvaal Government in recruiting Chinese labour in "South China, whence the whole of the labour supply for this Colony and for the Federated Native States is drawn, is likely to cause us most serious injury, and, if so, what steps are being taken by the Government to protect our interests?" This amounts to an allegation of poaching, for of course the Legislative Council of the Straits colony was asked to assume that in the whole of China there is not enough and to spare of cheap labour to supply the workshops and mines of both the Straits and the Transvaal. Otherwise, of course, the obvious thing to say to the mine owners of the Federated Malay States would be: "Don't worry. There is plenty for all." But it has been from southern China that the now complaining employers have been accustomed to recruit their forces, and as the first batch of coolies for the Cape went from Canton and Hongkong, they consider that the agents of the new scheme for manning the South African windlasses have treated them with a shocking lack of consideration. Such charges of want of consideration are common in all things with which fretful man has to do. It is usually the man who is most considerate—of his own interests—who waxes most virtuously indignant; and the same spirit may be traced in the sometime relations of communities, of nations. Hongkong cries lie upon Shanghai for dumping as many of Shanghai's deported undesirables upon the colony as the Shanghai authorities can persuade thatwards to travel. Shanghai imagines of Hongkong worthies being discharged "on promising to leave for Shanghai," and is far from pleased thereby. In the present war, when there was less hitting, and more "gallery-talk" in its earlier stages, like events were observable. So in this present matter, consideration of which has given rise to these reflections, there was as between labour and capital, sentimentalists and shareholders, the same disability to see eye to eye the one with the other. Who that sits apart observing the divagations of the shuttle amid the warp and woof of human affairs, can wonder at that, or expect things to be otherwise? The bitter feeling of the voicers of this last complaint to which we have made reference must have been, could not help but be, enhanced by the thought that their own people were helping and encouraging what to them seemed an injustice. Straits and States officials were employed, as it were, against the interests of those among whom they had gained the very

experience and knowledge which caused their services to be sought. A popular idol, from his retirement at Home, had (in the person of SIR FRANK SWETTENHAM) doughtily championed the cause of the authors of the scheme, doubtless forgetting how it must threaten Straits interests, and add to the difficulties they were already feeling full sorely. They were, to descend for once to the feebleness of a pun, in very sore Straits indeed. We are still in ignorance as to the reply of the Government of the Straits Settlements to that by no means impertinent question, but we imagine it would be couched in soothingly explanatory terms. The protestants would be reminded, probably, that the need of the Transvaal was so urgent, and its assuagement so long delayed by the Opposition at Home, that the southern depôts were tapped first as being more handy and near, and, as our contemporary has suggested, more familiar to the officials engaged in the work. One word of comfort we may add; and that is, that for some as yet not understood reason the supply of coolies in the south promises to dwindle more and more, so that the emissaries of the Randlords will probably have to confine their operations to North China, as being less unproductive for the trouble and expense involved. That, however, may be JOB's comfort after all, for this coy reluctance of the tropical Chinaman to emigrate may be adduced as in some sort evidence that the fame of the nearer tin mines has given him a distaste for the farther mines that yield something more precious than tin.

ARMY REFORM.

(Daily Press, 11th July)

The way of those who would re-organize the British army, with, of course, a commendable view of improvement, does not seem to be strewn with roses. Neither, some critics would fain add, is it hedged with commonsense. The report of the Commission appointed to ponder prudent changes in the Militia and Volunteer Forces of our kingdom furnished little evidence wherewith to rebut the disrespectful allegations of those who esteem not them that are set in authority; nor, indeed, did it afford the slightest encouragement to such of us as hope for a rehabilitation of a lately much mud-bespattered system. There should be some hesitation in sneering at the Commissioners, however, for it seems they were but indifferently briefed. There was more than a doubt as to the precise nature of the general effect of the conflicting views of the Secretary of State, the Commander-in-Chief, and the Defence Committee of the Cabinet: a very apparent mystery, in fact, for three or four months, as to what data to go upon, or what goal to aim at. They were told that a provision of two hundred thousand volunteers would meet the needs of the mobilisation scheme; but they were not definitely instructed what those needs were, what—that is to say—the volunteers were expected to do when got. It has been evident ever since the Report was made public that the deliberators were unable to decide if the volunteers should continue to be auxiliary forces, or whether the militia and volunteers were intended to act practically independent of the regulars. Their somewhat startling recommendation of conscription, or rather, compulsory service, may be supposed to have been based upon the latter assumption, that the idea was for the home-staying arm of the service to act alone. It is not very likely that such was the view of Downing Street, but as to that, who can say.

In any case, it seems a pity that what we cannot help regarding as over-emphasised, if not exaggerated, strictures upon the inadequacy of the army, and over insistence upon our unpreparedness for things unlikely to occur, should have set our Statesmen to moot such radical changes. The natural and proper treatment for some blemishes, such as have been indexed quite frequently enough in the last year and a half, is to effect such changes of *personnel* as experience has demonstrated to be obviously desirable. Such treatment followed, and was bound to follow, without any necessity for the promulgation of such hare-brained schemes as the one not long ago abandoned by the Cabinet, or of such a still sillier proposal as our telegram of this morning indicates Mr. ARNOLD FORSTER's to be. It is true that greater efficiency is desired in the case of the arms we have; it is none the less true that we want those arms numerically stronger. If the *Standard* has not been misled in announcing that Mr. ARNOLD FORSTER's revised scheme of army re-organisation means, *inter alia*, the abolition of the Militia, the dismissal of sixty thousand of the least efficient Volunteers, and the withdrawal of men from South Africa, Malta, and Gibraltar, we can easily foresee the raging storm of criticism that will arise to nip it in the bud, or to prompt the Defence Committee to lop the flower before it inclines to seed. For more years than we care to put a figure to, those acquainted with the inner workings of the Volunteer movement have known many pleadings for more encouragement, for fewer red-tape restrictions; and noting the deaf ear, have shrugged and murmured "War Office" in a tone of significance scarcely warranted by the apparent innocuousness of the phrase itself. It is not nonsense to say that with the present voluntary system strength and efficiency can be achieved and maintained. Perhaps it would be safer to say, with the present system modified as it would be by the addition to the War Office of what we may for the present style a Home Defence Office, each office to act independently under the supreme authority. We are told that it would not be sufficient even if all men obeyed the PROPHET KIPLING, and learned to shoot. The lesson of the Yalu, we are told, supersedes the prated lesson of the Transvaal. It in turn will be set aside by the lesson of Somewhere-else. The learning of one's lessons is an admirable thing, but the vehemence of the succeeding legions of critics bewilders, and bids us wonder if it may not be overdone. For instance, those enamoured of the "new thing under the sun" insist upon the likelihood of an invasion of England. To those who regard it as not sufficiently probable to warrant the incontinent transformation of Merrie England into a garrison, they cry: "Be logical. Be consistent. Why not abolish the volunteers and militia altogether if you feel so secure?" And they add: "Do not put your trust in your vaunted ironclad bulwarks round your shores. A few well-placed torpedoes, a chance mine or two, may cripple the fighting efficiency of the finest fleet afloat." Is that a scare due to happenings in the Yellow Sea; or is it, after all, that we have been guilty of wasteful, extravagant folly in our efforts toward naval supremacy? If the value of our navy is so dubious, in truth, may the anti-conscriptionists not in turn say: "Be logical. Be consistent. Fill the island home with soldiers, and abolish the navy?" But this is all words, words and wind. Surely that nation, while hardly yet recovering its breath from one war, that could produce so much partially minded

material as bombarded the Japanese Embassy in London with offers to serve under the sun-rayed flag, is not ripe for such a drastic and uncomplimentary change as legislated compulsion implies. Let the Volunteer Force be treated now as it would be if the morrow promised work for it, and there will soon be an end to the crop of such fantastic schemes as REUTER outlines for us this morning.

CHINESE PARTNERSHIPS AND COMPULSORY REGISTRATION.

(Daily Press, 12th July.)

The compulsory registration of Chinese partnerships in Hongkong has long been recognised as a vital necessity, both for the protection of commercial interests and for the simplification of the work of the Law Courts. Hitherto the demand for such a departure has always been met with the rejoinder that the scheme was impracticable and impossible, that it would constitute an interference with the source of the Colony's wealth, namely, the Chinese trader; but at length we have arrived at a stage at which, it would appear, the authorities are beginning to realise the falsity of their past policy and to adopt means, tentative though they be in the meantime, whereby they may devise some method of dealing with this very important matter, and of brushing away what is admitted on all sides to be a crying evil. It is good to hear, too, that Hongkong and Singapore are entering upon the movement together. Owing to the geographical situation of Hongkong, she suffers more from the evil than does her southern neighbour. But their general interests are identical. It is more difficult for an absconding debtor to get away from Singapore unbeknown. From Hongkong he can abscond to China by a thirty-cent passage on a Canton steamer and laugh defiance at the British law from the other side of the Border. The most common instances of the evils attendant upon the lack of compulsory registration appear in the Bankruptcy Court. Again and again cases come up before the Judge in which firms ask to be adjudicated bankrupt, and when it comes to an examination into the state of the firms' affairs the partners are found to have absconded or else they leave men of straw to bear the brunt of the proceedings and get out of the difficulty in the best way they can, with the result that the creditors are kept out of their legal rights in a manner that cannot be described otherwise than as fraudulent.

The case which has brought the registration agitation to a head is that of the Po Fung Bank, which suspended payment in March of this year and went into bankruptcy with a deficit of \$120,000. When the time came for judicial examination into the Bank's estate the only persons who admitted partnership were the two managing partners, neither of whom was in a position to meet the Bank's large liabilities or to do anything towards it. The Official Receiver found in the course of his enquiries that there were several other undeclared partners, and in the result an issue was ordered to be tried as to whether at least three of these were not partners. After a four-days' trial the Chief Justice, Sir WILLIAM GOODMAN, in an eminently sound judgment found that these three men had been proved to have been partners, and his Lordship accordingly found against them on the issue.

The Singapore *Free Press* commenting on this same case in its earlier stages explained how the Chinese commercial system of partners extends much further than is customary

in Europe. A hong or chop is inaugurated for some specific commercial venture, or to carry out some industrial work, or manage an estate, or own a ship. "A number of names are got together, some of men of standing, some of men of straw; the combined capital may be much or little, the fact being that the good men's names are the draw, and these men may (or may not) believe in the *bona fides* of the speculation. On the strength of these good names the chop commences business, gets credit among the Chinese as well as the European firms, and goes on gaily for a time living on credit. The really good men find out that the business is not a paying one and withdraw, giving as little publicity to the withdrawal as the manager of the firm can persuade them to adopt. When difficulties arise the proprietors and other parties concerned are not to be found, and often the only person in the firm who can be got at is he who describes himself as a 'paid servant' or manager. The procedure is quite common here as in Hongkong and is as generally condemned as it deserves to be."

Sir WILLIAM GOODMAN at the first hearing of the case stated that he and his brother Judges had been for a long time in favour of compulsory registration of partnerships and he added that he thought this was a matter which should have the attention of the Government; one-quarter of the work of the Court was taken up directly or indirectly in deciding questions as to whether certain persons were or were not partners. In the course of his judgment also His Lordship stated it as his belief that "among the Chinese of means there were many who wished to limit their liability in partnership businesses to the amount of their shares in such businesses. They disliked being liable for unknown amounts resulting from the contracts which the managing partner might enter into on behalf of the hong, and as, under British law, all partners were liable for the debts of the firm, when they wished to evade this obligation they took care that their names should not openly appear as partners, even in cases where their friends knew that they were really partners having shares in the business, and on that ground were more ready to give credit to the firm. In case the firm should become insolvent, such persons probably honestly believed that they had discharged all the obligations imposed by integrity and commercial morality if the share they had contributed went towards meeting the liabilities of the firm. They felt practically secure against further liability because of the great difficulty of proving them legally to be partners. Such was the view he entertained from the experience he had gained in this Colony from the numerous cases of disputed partnership which had come before himself and other judges in the Courts of Law."

The English law of partnership and the Chinese view of the subject are absolutely irreconcilable. Nothing can meet the needs of the case but compulsory registration. It may be that here, as in Singapore, an objection may be raised on the part of the European firms through the Chamber of Commerce by reason of the fact that registration would apply to them equally with the Chinese firms, and would necessitate disclosure of the composition of all partnerships; but there is at least one past representative of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce who has in effect voiced a favourable view of the project in the Legislative Council, and it must also be remembered that in the bulk of such bankruptcy cases European firms figure among the creditors, so that their direct gains would more than

compensate them for any indirect disadvantages that might follow upon registration. Moreover, as the legislation would be directed against semi-fraudulent partnerships, foreign objectors would be scarcely complimentary to themselves.

The Po Fung Bank case is the most convenient instance to quote as being freshest in the public memory. But innumerable cases could be cited. On the same day as that on which judgment was delivered in the Po Fung Bank case, there was before the Court another, that of the Tung Chan firm, whose statement of affairs showed liabilities of \$840,000 and assets of only \$500,000; yet when the public examination was entered upon none of the partners were forthcoming, and there only appeared the manager, who disclaimed all knowledge of any living partners and declared that the only one he knew of had lately died in Canton. Nothing more could be got out of him, but as there was an offer from an outsider to take over the business and make a composition of 66 per cent., there was nothing else for the Court to do but declare the examination closed.

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

(Daily Press, 13th July.)

The time-hallowed privilege of the Englishman is to grumble; and of the many privileges that are undoubtedly his birth-right, he clings with unshaken affection to this. With a constitutional liberty for which he has the envy of countless observers of other and less favoured nations, he exercises it in railing very often at that which is the source of it, almost like the midge described by GERALD MASSEY

"blaspheming at the beam
That makes him visible, suns him in it; gleam,
And gives him life a moment to blaspheme."

Is it that a surfeit of liberty has fermented within the national soul as the surfeit of theology is supposed to have done, and tinged his mental processes with another sort of intellectual doubt? In some ways, intellectual doubt may be intellectual damage. On the other hand, is it not more possibly a habit growth of that which (in the East, at any rate) we have, but have no name for—*ennui*? Consider some of the little grumbles bigly growled over, and say if it is not the case with some of us that

"life were exceedingly flat
With nothing whatever to grumble at."

The English sailor, if *Truth* (vide cutting in our yesterday's paper) has not been untruthful concerning him, shares the tendency of his compatriots of longer periods of exile. A little incident has sufficed to warrant publication of a charge that will for a long time to come blacken Shanghai in the eyes of JACK TAR; and that, too, in fateful irony, just after the Northern Port subscribed and strove *en fête* to do him honour. Another instance. The Hongkong fire-fighters are coming in just now for what looks like criticism, but is really grumble-ism. Who ever heard of a fire brigade that put out a fire quickly enough to forestall the inevitable grumbler? So far as the latest local grumbles go, it appears that the Hongkong firemen are inefficient because Government has so far omitted to install a suitable method of summoning them to disprove their inefficiency. With electric fire calls, and other most modern appliances, there will occasionally be a fire that will "steal a march" upon them, and enable the grumbler to saunter up with his hands in his pockets to pass judgment with incisive certainty. Hands in pocket! Aye, there's the rub! If particular notices were paid to all the grumblers, if they were given all they think they want, *Messrs.* the

Complainants would never have done putting hands in pockets. The so-called "model settlement" of Shanghai has not earned its proudly worn title without paying for it. Doubtless it was the grumblers who brought about many improvements at Shanghai; yet they are still grumbling there—at the rates. And they cannot put fires out so expeditiously at Shanghai as to choke off the grumblers, either.

Another grumble heard locally has reference to the absence, at Hongkong, of a beautiful Bund like the one at Shanghai, with seats. The provision of a few seats now, near Blake Pier, and round the Praya—that is a grumble we may echo, for is their absence not a standing grievance? But to cite Shanghai in support of accusations of lack of the æsthetic sense on the part of the Government, is to suggest that our grumblers know the beauty of Shanghai by hearsay only, as SOLOMON once of SHEBA. Not many weeks ago, the northern community celebrated the jubilee of an event its volunteers recollect with pride, as one of the first historical occasions of active service for the carpet soldier. That was the "Battle of Muddy Flats." The real battle of muddy flats, however, lasted longer than a day. Early settlers up there had to wrestle with dingy levels as our predecessors in this Colony had to strive with barren crags. Yet much as they did, and have done, not all their skill of forestry and horticulture has imparted a tithe of Hongkong's scenic beauty to Shanghai, nor ever can, while earth is earth and sea is sea. Passing now to another grumble, perhaps one of the most long-standing favourites, we have to perpend the grumble of the grumbler who is pricked for jury service. In China, it is possible that business men called upon to spend a mail day in Court have greater excuse than their prototypes who rebel at attendance upon Quarter Sessions or Assize at Home. We have sometimes thought that the Volunteer movement might with all-round advantage be extended to jurors and juries. There are generally some men of leisure who like the work as tending to relieve temporarily the tedium of existence. They would not, it may be presumed, be guilty of the reprehensible conduct of some jurors in Ceylon, presumably busy planters, pre-occupied with their own affairs. Referring to an acquittal he thought unjustified by evidence, the Acting Chief Justice of Ceylon (the Hon. F. C. MONCREEFF) said: "As a rule he had found the jurors intelligent and fair-minded, and though he had had occasion to disagree with some verdicts, still those were cases in which there might have been some reasons for the view taken by the jurors. The present was an instance where he could see no reason whatever for the verdict. He did not know whether it was want of intelligence or want of attention which was the explanation. He remembered a similar case two years ago when a similarly unreasonable verdict had been returned. He had with difficulty refrained from expressing his feelings on that occasion, but he could not do so now. His Lordship condemned the verdict in very strong language, and hoped that such a miscarriage of justice would not occur again, or it would be impossible to do justice. The *Times* of Ceylon reports that on the following day it was noticed that the jurors, most of whom were responsible for the verdict so severely criticised, had armed themselves with pencils and paper, which they used in making copious notes of the evidence!" There have recently been at least two cases in which the Chief Justice of China and

Corea (Sir HIRAM SHAW WILKINSON) must have "with difficulty refrained from expressing his feelings." Lastly, although the list of prominent recent grumbles has been no more than skimmed, there was grumbling recently at the number of "acting" officials in the Hongkong Government. The grumblers who do not presently see their schemes for a colonial millennium given a trial, will surely then grumble because the officials are not acting. Which "just shows"—as the children say—how hard it is to stop grumbling.

HONGKONG FINANCES.

(Daily Press 14th July.)

Facts and figures covering a dozen foolscap pages make up the report on the blue book for 1903, to be submitted by the Officer Administering the Colony to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies. Dealing first with finances, it tells how the revenue of the Colony was altogether \$5,238,857.88, including \$510,165.71 for Land Sales. This means that the revenue was greater by \$337,784.18 than in any previous year, and exceeded the estimate by \$305,562.88. An interesting table given on a subsequent page shows how the income of the Government has gone on increasing for the last five years. In 1900 it rose by nearly \$600,000. In 1901 there was a further leap upwards of a little over \$11,000; and for the year immediately preceding the period with which this report deals, there was an additional increment of about \$700,000, in round numbers. Thus we find that in a bare half decade, the revenue has been swollen by a total increase of \$1,628,714.63, ample evidence, if there were no other, of the assured and increasing importance of a Crown Colony whose enterprise, at the outset, was embarked upon with so much diffidence. Turning to expenditure, which would, of course, increase automatically in some sort of ratio, the outlay for last year was, in total, \$5,396,669.48, or, without the item for Public Works Extraordinary, \$4,746,838.44. That is less, by \$512,879.03, than the total expenditure for 1902, and leaves the Colonial Treasurer with a deficit on the year's actual work of \$157,811.60. Reverting again to the quinquennial table, it will be seen that the annual increase for three years was in the main strictly proportionate. Beginning in 1899 with an expenditure of \$3,162,792.36, there was a surplus of \$447,350.89. The first increase in outlay amounted to nearly \$466,000. By 1901 it had climbed up another \$483,000, to which the corresponding increase of revenue, already approximated at \$11,000, was scarcely commensurate. This still left, however, the treasury with a healthy surplus of \$102,170.73 at the end of 1901, and it is to the work done in the following year, the year prior to the one under treatment, that we must look for explanation of the somewhat startling metempsychosis of a surplus of a hundred thousand dollars into a deficit of a million plus eight thousand. The report would have been more complete if it had included some explanatory reference, for which, however, the uninitiated colonist or Home student will look in vain. Reference to the *Gazette*, however, secures a reminder of the extraordinary expenditure of the year which witnessed the change. Among the items, in addition to the large amount expended in determined copement with disease, were the new law courts, and the Governor's Peak residence, which were to cost together something like \$117,000, of which over \$73,000 was actually disbursed. The sixteen miles of Tai-po Road, and the

widening of Conduit Road, together accounted for more than \$51,000, and work on the new territory was also a source of considerable financial drainage. Police stations and jails, improvements to the waterworks, and the excellent interference with refractory and mischievous *nullahs*, accounted for another quarter of a million. Against "rainstorm and typhoon damages," an extravagant item which could well have been dispensed with, was set about \$26,000. Taking everything into consideration, however, the inhabitants, looking round at the numerous new features dating from that period, may not improperly consider that there is evidence of value received, and some justification for a state of things which, on paper, does not look so rosy as in former aspects. In addition to what was done and spent that year, 1902 left a legacy of expectations for its successor; yet the expenditure was trimmed and pared down to \$512,879.03 less than it was. If the revenue had but maintained its rate of increase, instead of lagging as it did (\$687,190.08 increase in 1902, and only \$337,784.19 increase in 1903) the deficit, already reduced by nearly \$851,000, might have been rendered comparatively unimportant. That may be partly accounted for by a decrease of over \$61,000 in the amount derived from the sale of Crown lands. Here it is necessary to point out a misstatement, obviously a *lapsus calami*, that occurs on the first page of the report. Land sales are quoted as \$61,195.51 more than in 1902. The figures in 1902 were \$571,361, so that, as we have stated, the receipts were less by about that amount. However, "returning to our muttons," there is not the slightest reason for pessimism; quite the contrary. Assets make a satisfactory showing against liabilities, and in summing up the position, the Officer Administering the Government speaks of the "continued prosperity of this Port." The temporary diminution of the upward impetus is attributed to the war, and "there is nothing to indicate that the trade interests . . . of this Colony have ceased to expand." What ought to be done to ensure continued expansion he outlines in the notes we have already published, and have frequently referred to.

POLICE GRIEVANCES.

(Daily Press, 15th July.)

It is with more than a formal regret that we hear there is some dissatisfaction in the ranks of the foreign police of the Colony, due to disappointments in connection with the latest promotion list. It would be too much to expect that there should be no disappointments. Everything, in the way of material advancement at any rate, does not come to him who waits. But between disappointment and dissatisfaction there is drawn, in this connection, a certain distinction. The first, as we have hinted, is an unavoidable thing. By the second is meant the expression of the thing; and its expression, far from being a matter of course like the other, should be scrupulously avoided. It is not wise on the part of the balked, occupying such official positions, to complain aloud in the market place, because that way never lies the hope of the end desired. It is not good, because it smacks of envy, and tends to destruction of the valuable *esprit de corps*. It is of no avail, in the present instance, because there is very little chance of public sympathy for such grumblings and murmurings. Even supposing that sympathy were of the slightest use to a policeman, which it isn't, it would hardly be forthcoming just now. The plain citizen, with his own particular worries, would most

likely at this season retort: "Bother you and your promotion. Go and catch some of these burglars who are annoying us." It is particularly foolish to allege, as we are informed is being done, that there has been favouritism, that the Officer Administering the Government has overlooked or overridden the recommendations of the Captain Superintendent of Police. Assuming for a moment so insupportable a case, the possibility of injustice is no whit increased, seeing that in his time, playing, as is the lot of Service men, many parts, the Officer Administering the Government has performed the functions of Police Captain, and may be supposed to know, much better than the malcontents give him credit for, the needs of the service and the deserts of the men therein. In one instance, the grievance is that men of longer service were passed over, and the obvious reply is that for a special service a man with special qualifications was selected. Sometimes, as in the parable, it is right and proper that the later arrivals at the Vineyard should have their reward, without too much consideration for the feelings of those who have toiled beneath the heat and burden all the day. One promotion, in which two others were "passed over," has the very natural and suitable explanation that the recipient is more of a sinologue, a consideration not to be ignored by the authorities, who are at such pains to promote among their men the very necessary study of Chinese. Experience and seniority are "quite English" as steps to advancement, but no sensible person needs to have pointed out to him the possible qualifications and qualities of the first. There is a difference between the man who in ten years has learned and done something, and the man who in five has learned and done more, and the sum of that difference, *malgre* the susceptibilities of the ten year man, ought to be promotion for the abler junior. Some energy and zeal and study will do more to entitle the policeman to the uniform, emolument, and honour of the inspectorship than the longest term of service, especially if part of that term has been devoted to nothing more effectual than "kicking against the pricks," or cavilling at the discretionary doings of superior officers. No doubt, however, the murmurings that have been brought to our notice will subside, and be no more thought of, save with a little self-shame, perhaps, when the first flush of disappointment has paled. In which case it is unnecessary to offer unwanted advice to a very, on the whole, praiseworthy body of men; and it should suffice to remind them, as the "consummation devoutly to be wished," that (as indicated in the recent Government paper relating to police probationers) "the requirements of the Public Service should rank before every other consideration."

HONGKONG JOTTINGS.

(Daily Press 11th July.)

A correspondent enquires of me what is the respective rank that the Governor of Hongkong holds in relation to the Naval and Military Commanders in the Colony. Well, Sir Matthew Nathan, for instance, will be honorary Lieut.-General of the Forces and honorary Commander-in-Chief of the Navy. But his honorary positions interfere in no way with the prerogative of those two Executive Commanders. Troops can be moved and warships despatched without reference to the Governor, though he, as ultimate representative of His Majesty the King here, enjoys superior rank by courtesy. Of course in the case of local trouble the Governor could call upon either Commander to lend assistance, but this would be more in the nature of a request than an order.

The Public Works Department are not to be congratulated on their management of affairs at Queen's Road East. Arsenal Street has been blocked for some time, and the road notices have been so situated as to divert the whole of the ricksha traffic through that somewhat unsavoury byway, Ship Street.

The Police have decided to appeal at the Supreme Court regarding Mr. Gompertz's decision as to bamboo poles. Mr. Gompertz, it will be remembered, recently held that coolies carrying bamboo poles along side-walks, under verandahs, etc., were not, under the ordinance, causing an obstruction. The necessary \$500, I understand, has been deposited at the Supreme Court, in the name of a Chinese constable, a recent complainant, to defray the cost of appeal. If the Chief Justice's finding in the matter is the same as Mr. Gompertz's there will be need for legislation.

The business, calling, or profession of a thief in Hongkong appears to be on the whole both safe and profitable. Rarely indeed is the wily burglar caught, and I fancy the number of these rascals carrying on operations in the Colony increases as the years roll onward. Last year the value of the property reported stolen reached, according to the police returns, what I believe to be the biggest amount on record in the Colony. The precise amount was \$228,061.37, and property to the value of only \$26,941.16 was recovered by the police. There were 114 burglaries and 367 larcenies from dwelling houses reported to the police last year, but only 28 convictions for burglary were secured and 25 for larcenies from dwelling houses. All of which goes to prove that the profession of the Chinese Sykes is both safe and profitable in Hongkong. During the past few weeks there has been quite an epidemic of impudent burglaries on the island and in Kowloon, but I have not observed in the police court reports that a single case has been brought before the magistrates, except that in which Mr. Fung Wa Chun was the victim. Why is it? I am told that one terrace in Kowloon has, in the space of a few days, been treated to a succession of nocturnal visitations by burglars, and as further evidence of their impudence and daring I am informed that valuables have even been removed, and in one case a revolver, from under pillows while the owners slumbered and slept. Whether robbery is as rife in the Colony this year as last I am unable to say, but it is at least far more rife than it ought to be, and in view of the public dissatisfaction with this state of things the Government might very well consider the advisability of holding an inquiry into the organisation, strength and efficiency of the Police Force.

When comparatively young men write the biographies of old men errors of fact are bound to creep into the story unless it is compiled from written or printed records. In the accounts which have appeared in the Press of the career of the late Mr. Dorabjee old residents have noted a few such errors, one at least of which in the interests of historical accuracy is worth correcting. It is, I am informed, hardly correct to say that the late Mr. Dorabjee was the founder of the Kowloon ferry service. That distinction belongs to Mr. Grant Smith, who is still residing in the Colony. Mr. Smith came to Hongkong in 1862, and when he took a trip home in 1868, he purchased from the firm of Yarrow and Hedley the engine for the first steam launch that was employed in the waters of the Colony. He subsequently sent further orders of the kind to the firm, getting the boats built here. Mr. Smith started a ferry service with a twin-screw launch in 1870, but thirty-four years ago the passenger traffic between the island and the mainland was not what it is to-day, and the first effort to establish a ferry service was consequently not a paying one. Times have changed since then, and when it is added that the firm which supplied Hongkong with its first steam launch was a struggling little concern we can say that firms have changed with the times, for the old firm of Yarrow and Hedley is now known the wide-world over as the great Thames shipbuilding firm of Yarrow & Co.

BANYAN.

THE WAR.

LAND OPERATIONS.

[REUTER'S SERVICE.]

ON THE ROAD TO MUKDEN.

LONDON, 7th July.

General Sakharoff reports a general advance of the Japanese on the 6th instant from Siung-Yo-Cheng northwards. The Russians in retiring sustained a score of casualties. The Japanese are eight miles south-east of Kaichow.

THE NORTHERN ARMY.

LONDON, 9th July.

Reuter's Tokyo correspondent wires that after severe fighting General Oku occupied Kaiping on Friday.

General Sakharoff estimates the strength of the Japanese force advancing south of Kai Chow (Kaiping) at a division of infantry, two regiments of cavalry and sixty guns.

On the morning of the 7th instant, a vast Japanese camp was discovered at Siaoketzza, east of the railway, seven miles south of Kai Chow (Kaiping). The enemy have now resumed their advance along the railway.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

JAPANESE CAPTURE KAIPING.

Kobe, 9th July, 3.35 p.m.

Kaiping, on the west of the Liaotung Peninsula, south of Newchwang, is captured by the Japanese.

[This is part of the advance on Mukden. The Japanese left Siung-yo, or Hsiung-yo, last Wednesday.—Ed.]

[JAPANESE OFFICIAL DESPATCHES.]

OFFICIAL CORROBORATION.

Tokyo, 10th July, 5.10 p.m.

General Oku reports that the second army commenced operations for occupying Kaiping on the 6th inst.

After successfully dislodging the Russians from their positions, we finally occupied Kaiping and neighbouring heights on the 9th inst.

CLEARING THE ROAD.

Tokyo, 10th July, 10.20 p.m.

General Kuroki reports that on the 6th inst., our detachment, after expelling 300 Russian cavalry, occupied Hsienchang—thirty miles north-east of Saimachi. There were no casualties on our side. On the 5th inst. we repulsed 1,300 cavalry of the Chichinsky regiment which came to attack us near to and north of Fenshuiling. Our casualties were 4 killed and 3 wounded.

[REUTER'S SERVICE.]

VAGUE.

LONDON, 11th July.

Fighting has been going on for several days round Port Arthur. According to one account the Russians lost 1,700 in one encounter on the 7th instant, but nothing official has been received from either side.

The Port Arthur organ the *Nove Krai* says that the warships left the harbour and participated in the fighting.

RUMOUR CONFIRMED.

LONDON, 12th July.

The *Neueste Nachrichten* announces that three weeks ago, representatives of Berlin Banks signed a contract with St. Petersburg for a loan of Marks 50,000,000 at 5 %.

[JAPANESE OFFICIAL TELEGRAM.]

CASUALTIES AT KAIPING.

Tokyo, 13th July, 12.50 p.m.

General Oku reports that in the occupation of Kaiping our casualties from 5th to 7th inst. were 24, whereof 4 men were killed.

Those of the 8th and 9th were about 150.

NAVAL OPERATIONS.

[REUTER'S SERVICE.]

NOT FAR FROM GENSAN.

LONDON, 7th July.

Admiral Skrydloff reports that the Vladivostok squadron encountered seven large Japanese warships in Broughton Bay. The squadron turned back, the Japanese pursuing and firing without result. Eleven torpedoers attacked the Russians, and it is believed that two were sunk. The Japanese disappeared in the morning, leaving the Russians undamaged and without casualties.

WAR ITEMS.

It is reported from Newchwang by Chinese that on the 3rd instant there were no less than 300,000 Russian troops encamped outside the city of Haicheng.

THE Russian correspondent of the *Echo de Chine* writes under the heading "The Baltic Fleet":—"This fleet is very sick, and it is not for nothing that it is nicknamed 'La Sonnaia,' 'The Sleeping Fleet.' Composed of very fine units, it grows mouldy in the harbours and is only fit for ornament. Its vital pieces do not exist, are in bad condition, or are replaced by temporary pieces, and God knows when it will be able to start. Besides which, everybody is asking of what use it can be. By the Red Sea it will require 52 days at least, perhaps 60 or 70, according to the weather. This brings it to the end of September, if the fleet leaves at the end of July, which is very doubtful. It is feared that it will arrive too late, i.e., after the feast is over."

VLADIVOSTOCK.

At Vladivostok there are twenty-two forts and batteries on which are placed 100 heavy guns and sixty light guns, with calibres ranging from six inches to eleven inches. There are four ironclad cruisers (one of which has been wrecked, however), several transports (the largest one of which is the *Lena*), several second class torpedo-boats (which are from 100 to 200 tons in displacement and from nineteen to twenty-one knots in speed), and ten small torpedo-boats of an old type. Under the circumstances, the Japanese squadron can only attack Vladivostok by torpedo-boats. Small torpedo-boats cannot steam with the main squadron for the distance of 10,000 nautical miles, so that six destroyers of from 280 to 380 tons' displacement must be sent out from Japan. The Japanese squadron would incur a great loss in passing through the straits to the entrance to Vladivostok, since the east and west channels of the straits are strongly defended.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

MARSHAL Oyama, Commander-in-Chief, General Baron Kodama, his Chief of Staff, General Fukushima and staff had the most splendid send-off this morning, says the Tokyo correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News* on the 6th inst. They left in a special train with flags flying and bands playing. The streets were lined between the General Staff Office and the Shimbashi station, which was crowded outside and jammed inside. Marshal Oyama rode to the station in the carriage specially presented to him by the Emperor, amid tremendous enthusiasm.

JOURNALISTIC JOTTINGS.

POOR H. J. Middleton, the war correspondent who died of dysentery at Liaoyang, was only about thirty-five years old, and most of his journalistic experience was gained in Paris, with the *Associated Press*. Paris is the paradise of Pressmen. *Daily News* A. G. Hales, whose South African record was against his gaining the confidence of the Japanese Censor, is going

home via Siberia. G. Kingswell, who came out to arrange the field for the *Daily Express*, goes with him. Douglas Story, whose last connexions had Hongkong for venue, and J. Wigham of the *Morning Post*, with many others of the smaller fry whom it is now too late to remember, have been recalled. The "picture men" will probably follow, for what they have seen to depict could have been sketched just as well at the British Museum. The *Daily Mail*, pet journalistic offspring of the new baronite, seems to be "top side," now that the *Times' Haimun* charter has expired. On the Russian side it has the clever Hands, hero of many a scoop, and in Japan, editing its war news with the skill acquired by five years' residence on the spot, E. J. Harrison, who speaks and reads Japanese like a native, and is the foremost foreign exponent of jujitsu in Mikado-land. His journalistic experience includes a long spell in western America.

A PICTURE MAP.

According to a striking panoramic map by the Japanese *Mainichi* newspaper, revised and republished by the *N.-C. Daily News*, the Japanese army in three columns is marching north with Mukden as their converging point. One column, leaving a large force on the neck of the Liaotung Peninsula, investing Port Arthur, is following the railway track along the west to Haicheng, and (as recent despatches indicate) has passed Kaiping. This is the force that won the great battle of Telissu. In the valley road running from the port of Takushan to Haicheng, its scouts almost equidistant with the western column, is the central column, massed at and about Shuen. The main army of invasion, operating from the Yalu, taking Fenghuangcheng and Saimachi en route, has pushed forward two detachments, one marching parallel to the middle column, along the Liaoyang Road, and the other clearing the road over the Motienling Pass from Saimachi to Mukden.

RUSSIAN OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE KINCHAU FIGHT.

General Stoessel reported to headquarters on May 28th as follows:

"On May 26th, after a fierce battle which lasted two days, I ordered the Kinchau position to be evacuated in the evening, for we had opposed to us at least three divisions, with 190 guns.

The enemy's fire, particularly that of four gunboats and six torpedo-boats, completely annihilated our batteries mounted at Kinchau.

The 5th Regiment, which was posted at this spot, stood its ground heroically.

The fire of the regiment, as well as that of our batteries and the gunboat *Bobr* off Khounoueza, inflicted enormous losses on the Japanese.

Our losses amounted to thirty officers and about 800 men killed and wounded.

We blew up and damaged all the guns which the Japanese had not put out of action. It was certainly not expedient to bring up siege artillery during a fight, for it would have to have been done three days before.

The battle of May 26th began at five o'clock in the morning and lasted until eight o'clock in the evening, when I ordered the position to be evacuated gradually.

The explosion of a number of mines and fougades was rendered impossible, inasmuch as the Japanese turned our position directly, advancing through water up to their waists and under the protection of their ships.

The spirit of our troops is excellent."

The method of transmission of General Stoessel's despatch is not disclosed, but it is presumed to have been brought by a junk. It was evidently drawn up under stress of circumstances, as it was hastily written in pencil.

SURVIVORS AT VLADIVOSTOCK.

The following telegram reached the Foreign Office on Wednesday, 29th ult., from Mr. Inouye, Japanese Minister at Berlin:—

"The U.S. Ambassador at St. Petersburg has supplied me by telegram with the following report, which he received from the U.S. Commercial Agent at Vladivostok:—

"The survivors of those who were on board the *Sado Maru* and the transports which were sunk on June 16th and 17th arrived at Vladivostok on June 20th. They number 103 Japanese and 4 English engineers, in addition to 1 Japanese passenger and 11 wounded Japanese. I

paid a visit to the survivors on June 22nd. I am informed that all of them, with the exception of the wounded, will be removed to some other place in a few days. The names of the survivors will be reported immediately I receive them."

The foreign engineers on the transports numbered only three—namely Mr. Glass, Chief Engineer on the *Hitachi*, and Mr. Kerr, Chief Engineer, and Mr. Carmichael, Second Engineer, on the *Sado*. Probably the fourth Englishman is one of the deck officers.

CAPT. TROUBRIDGE.

The following characteristic letter appeared in the Home paper named:—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "STANDARD."

Sir.—In *The Standard* of the 4th instant a report from the New York Correspondent of a London paper is telegraphed from S. Petersburg, in which it is stated that:—"Captain Troubridge is responsible for Admiral Togo's successes, having planned the night attack on Port Arthur, and being present at it in person."

In view of the possibility that misunderstanding may be caused were this statement to remain uncontradicted, I shall be under an obligation to you if you will mention in your next issue that I was not responsible for Admiral Togo's successes; that I did not plan the night attack on Port Arthur; and that I was not present at it in person.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

E. T. TROUBRIDGE, Captain and late Naval Attaché at Tokyo.

1. Durham-place, S.W., June 7.

TWO VESSELS SUNK AT GENSAN.

The following reports dated the 30th have reached the Foreign Department from Gensan:—

1. Four Russian warships came here this morning at 5.30.
2. The number of Russian torpedo-boats was five. Besides these, three large vessels resembling warships were sighted off the port.
3. Russian torpedo-boats began to attack the settlement this morning at 6.10.
4. Six Russian torpedo-boats stopped firing at 6.45 a.m. after sinking one steamboat and one small sailing ship. They left the port at 7.20 a.m.
5. The enemy consisted of three warships, nine torpedo-boats, and one vessel which seemed to be a torpedo-destroyer. They steamed south-east and were off Anpen at 9.30 a.m.
6. They fired about two hundred shots at the settlement, but did not do much damage. The steamboat sunk by the Russians was the *Koun Maru*, belonging to Hori Kiu at Chemulpo, and the sailing ship was the *Seisha Maru*, which came across from Hokkaido. Her tonnage was only 35.
7. The crew who were on board the *Seisha Maru* say that a searchlight was turned upon them on the 24th off the coast of Shunggin. All the people in the Settlement escaped to the hills and no one was killed. (*Kobe Herald*)

THE Japanese were in the Motienling Pass on or about the 4th inst. The middle column of the First Corps occupied Lianshan-Kwan.

THE Sasebo Prize Court on June 25th released the Norwegian steamer (*Aggi?*) that was seized at Nagasaki, and her cargo of coal too.

A TOKYO telegram of the 5th inst. to the *N.-C. Daily News* says that two thousand Russians retired toward the west of Tenshi-tien.

MESSRS. Bush Bros. & Co., Lloyd's agents at Newchwang, sent the following telegram for publication in the *N.-C. Daily News*:—

Shanhaikuan, 2nd July.

A Ningpo junk loaded for the south struck a mine at 3 o'clock on the 29th of June near Ching Hang Island, between Chinchou and Fuchou in 31.39 N. Lat., 121.14 E. Long. Nine men were killed. Fifteen have been landed here, of whom two are in hospital.

THE construction of iron cases for mines is going on merrily in Shanghai. Four of them were seen, says the *Shanghai Daily News*, being taken along the Bund on a truck on Saturday morning, and they are being openly manufactured in Hongkew. It would be indiscreet to ask whether they are for Russian or Japanese account.

SOME of the St. Petersburg papers complain of the pessimistic attitude of the Russian public, especially in the provinces, with regard to the war. One of the principal, the *Russ*, says:—"Already there are people who despair

of the future and are ready at any moment to cry for peace. . . . Everybody professes to hope for some sort of victory which might enable Russia to put an end to the war without loss of honour, but the utmost they expect is a stroke of good luck, not a decisive triumph."

AMONG the documents found on the steamer *Yedo-maru*, one of the vessels sunk at the mouth of Port Arthur harbour, the following defiant note was discovered fastened on the rail of the bridge: "Remember, my dear Russian sailors, my name is Lieutenant-Commander Keriso. This is my second visit; my first was on the *Kossuko*. I will come again." This threat was not carried out, however, as the officer was found among the dead.

THE following report was received at the Imperial Headquarters at Tokyo, on 30th June, from General Oku:—The number of the Russian dead buried by our troops on the battlefield of Tehlisz has reached 1,854. Besides these, some more bodies were buried in outlying spots, but the exact number is not known. Other trophies than the rice already reported are as follows: 16 quickfiring guns; 46 ammunition carts; 958 rifles; 27,233 cartridges; 1,121 shells; 282 tools; 1,400 cases of cement; and several other things.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on the 12th instant in the Council Chamber. Present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT, F. H. MAY, C.M.G.

HIS EXCELLENCY MAJOR-GENERAL VILLIERS HATTON, C.B. (Commanding the Troops).

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Sir H. S. BERKELEY (Attorney-General).

Hon. L. A. M. JOHNSTON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).

Hon. Captain L. A. W. BARNES-LAWRENCE, R.N. (Harbour Master).

Hon. P. N. H. JONES (Director of Public Works).

Hon. Sir C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, C.M.G.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Hon. R. SHEWAN.

Hon. GERSHOM STEWART.

Mr. S. B. C. ROSS (Clerk of Councils).

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table Financial Minutes (Nos. 30 to 40) and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded and the motion was agreed to.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the Report of the Finance Committee (No. 7) and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded and the motion was agreed to.

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the Reports of the Medical Officer of Health, the Sanitary Surveyor and the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon for 1903, the Report on the Blue Book for 1903, the Report of the Registrar-General for 1903, the Report of the Registrar of the Supreme Court for 1903, the Report of the Principal Civil Medical Officer for 1903, the Report on the Botanical and Afforestation Department for 1903, the Report on the Hongkong Volunteer Corps for 1903—04; a paper on Police Probationers in Hongkong, Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States; the Supplementary Colonial Estimates, 1903, and a paper on the Des Vœux Road murder, 1903.

THE NEW EDITION OF THE ORDINANCES.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the following resolution:—"Resolved that in accordance with the requirements of Section 10 (2.) of the Statute Laws (Revised Edition) Ordinance, 1900, the 'New Edition' of the Hongkong Ordinances prepared by Sir John Carrington and now laid before the Council, is approved." He said—This resolution is necessary in order to obtain the sanction of the Council to the circulation of the revised edition of the laws of Hongkong compiled by the late Chief Justice Sir John

Carrington. The books are already in the Colony for distribution.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

QUESTIONS BY THE HON. GERSHOM STEWART.

Hon. GERSHOM STEWART asked the following questions:—

1. The open space in front of the Hongkong Club being no longer used for the storage of cement blocks, and the small railway to the Praya for the crane having been picked up, will the Government be able soon to allow the Botanical Department to open up the space for public use as a garden, as promised by Sir Henry Blake on 20th July, 1903?

2. Will it be possible this year, by dredging or otherwise, to increase the space available for small craft in the typhoon shelter at Causeway Bay, as it is much silted up at low water? Have the Government decided on any plan for a new typhoon shelter?

3. In view of the recent fire at the Ferry Wharf, will the Government take into consideration the advisability of making improved approaches and shelters at Blake Pier and Queen's Statue Wharf?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY answered as follows:—

1. The only recommendation that has been made in this matter is that sites on the East of the Statue of H. M. the Queen corresponding to the areas reserved by the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank on the West side of the Statue should be set apart for Statues of H. M. the King and H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught. No recommendation was made to the Secretary of State by Sir Henry Blake for the reservation of the space between the site for the Statue of H. M. the King and the Hongkong Club.

2. No. It is impossible to increase the area of accommodation by dredging owing to the hard bottom of the Southern portion of the refuge. Several schemes for a new refuge have been prepared and are being considered.

The Queen's Statue Pier is a temporary erection and is therefore properly served by a temporary shed. It is intended to put up a permanent shelter at Blake Pier when funds become available. Fires are not so frequent or disastrous as to cause anxiety in this connection.

QUESTIONS BY THE HON. H. E. POLLOCK.

In the absence of Hon. Mr. Pollock, Hon. Mr. SHEWAN put the following questions:—

In connection with the burning of the Star Ferry matched, will the Government kindly state how many minutes (approximately) after the commencement of the fire was the water from the mains turned on to and playing on the fire?

Will the Government state what is the estimated cost of establishing a system of electric fire-alarms in the City of Victoria? Does the Government propose to establish such a system? Is it the fact that at the present time the alarm has to be given by a Police Officer who has to leave his beat for that purpose? If so, does the Government consider such a system of giving the alarm satisfactory? If the Government does not consider such a system of giving the alarm satisfactory, what steps does the Government propose to take in connection with the matter?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY answered as follows:—

1. About 15 minutes.

The cost would be large but an estimate cannot be given till the system to be adopted be decided on. The question is now under consideration. Experiments have already been made with telephonic fire alarms. The results have been very discouraging, the native population never having been known to use them. It is not the fact as implied in the question that an alarm can only be given by a Police Officer who has to leave his beat for the purpose. Look-outs are kept for the purpose of giving alarm and the Police on duty on the street make free use of Government and private telephones for the purpose.

SUPPLEMENTARY VOTES.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to authorise the Appropriation of a Supplementary Sum of Three Hundred and thirty-one thousand six hundred and twenty-four Dollars and forty-one cents to defray the charges of the year 1903.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

This sum is made up as follows:—

Pensions,	\$26,303.08
Governor and Legislature,	1,158.95
Treasury,	1,244.79
Post Office,	26,362.27
Registrar General's Department,	1,921.21
Harbour Master's Departments,	3,108.51
Judicial and Legal Departments,	2,116.47
Land Court, New Territory,	1,041.51
Magistracy,	706.30
Transport,	11,848.84
Miscellaneous Services,	32,922.63
Public Works Recurrent,	92,777.98

Ordinary Expenditure,	\$201,512.54
Public Works Extraordinary,	130,111.87

Total Supplementary Votes, \$331,624.41

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Criminal Procedure Ordinance, 1899.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Council adjourned till next Tuesday, when the Supplementary Votes will be considered.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held after the Council, the Colonial Secretary (Hon. A. M. Thomson) presiding.

TRAINING NULLAHS.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$3,400 in aid of the vote, Public Works, Extraordinary, for Drainage Works, Training Nullahs.

Approved.

VOLUNTEERS.

The officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$16,432.80 in aid of the vote, Military Expenditure—B. Expenses of Volunteers, for the following items:—

	Other Charges.
Rifles	£1,171.180.0
Equipment	123.11.0
Chargers	3.19.0

£1,369. 8.0 @ 1/8 = \$16,432.80

The CHAIRMAN stated that this vote has been recommended by the military authorities.

Approved.

KOWLOON DISINFECTING STATION.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$5,000 in aid of the vote Public Works Extraordinary, to meet cost of erecting an Office at the New Disinfecting Station at Kowloon, for the Assistant Medical Officer of Health and the Inspectors working under him.

The CHAIRMAN said it had been discovered that it would be very useful to have an office there for the M. O. H. and the inspectors working under him.

Approved.

SECRET SERVICE.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$1,000 in aid of the vote, Police, for "Secret Service" under Other Charges.

The CHAIRMAN stated that there had been several charges on this vote owing to a series of crimes, and this sum was required to carry them through the year.

Approved.

NEW TERRITORY.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a further sum of \$4,524 in aid of the vote Land Court, New Territory, for the following staff required from 1st June to 31st December, 1904, in connection with the Land Settlement in New Kowloon and the New Territory:—

PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS.

4 Clerks @ \$420 for annum=	\$ 980
4 " @ \$300 " =	700
8 " @ \$240 " =	1,120
4 Coolies @ \$ 96 " =	224
	3,024

OTHER CHARGES.

Incidental expenses	1,500
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Total \$4,524

The CHAIRMAN explained that it had been discovered recently that the officers in charge of the work were getting on very fast in comparison with the progress made in the past, and it was anticipated that with this extra assistance they would be able to get the thing done by the end of the year.

Approved.

VICTORIA HOSPITAL.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$676.21 in aid of the vote Public Works, Extraordinary, being a revote of an unexpended balance to meet the balance of the cost of Gas Service for the Victoria Hospital.

The CHAIRMAN said this was one of the legacies of the subscribers to the Jubilee Fund which the Government had to meet.

Approved.

LAND COURT EXPENSES.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$1,732.50 in aid of the vote, Land Court, New Territory, Personal Emoluments, being equivalent to Mr. Clementi's half pay as Assistant Registrar General for 6 months from 1st July, 1904.

Half pay for July at \$3,600 per annum =	\$150.00
Half pay from 1st August to 31st December at \$3,900 per annum =	812.50

\$962.50

Exchange Compensation.	770.00
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Total,	\$1,732.50
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Approved.

LAND COURT APPEAL CASES.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$3,000 in aid of the vote miscellaneous services, other miscellaneous services, being payment to Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, for work done in connection with certain Land Court appeal cases.

The CHAIRMAN stated that there had been several long appeal cases in the Supreme Court which had thrown an excessive amount of work on Mr. Bowley. The Secretary of State had approved the vote if the Council agreed to it.

Approved.

GREEN ISLAND LIGHT.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$9,300 in aid of the vote, Public Works Extraordinary for carrying out the work of improving the Green Island Light:—

New tower	\$5,439.47
Additional quarters	2,479.98
Shifting light from Cape	
D'Aguilar to Green Island.	500.00
Contingencies	880.55

Total	\$9,300.00
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The CHAIRMAN remarked that this was a work which had been recommended for a long time, and he believed everybody in the Colony was agreed that it would be a very good thing.

Approved.

BOTANICAL.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$1,000 in aid of the vote Botanical and Afforestation Department. Other charges, item maintenance of Botanic Gardens, for the preparation of the new Garden Nursery near the Albany Nullah and the removal thither of the shrubs and other stock from the Kowloon Nursery, the site of which is now required for building purposes.

The CHAIRMAN said the removal of the nursery was necessary as the old ground was going to be sold.

Approved.

TELEGRAMS.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$2,000 in aid of the vote for Telegraph Service—Telegrams sent and received by Government—under Miscellaneous Services.

The CHAIRMAN stated that there had been a great deal of extra outlay for telegrams, chiefly in connection with the South African emigration scheme.

Approved.

This was all the business.

THE DES VŒUX ROAD MURDER.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

The following correspondence was laid on the table at the meeting of the Legislative Council yesterday:—

I.

(From Governor Sir Henry Blake to the Secretary of State.)
Government House,
Hongkong, 18th June, 1903.

SIR,—With reference to my despatch of 30th April, I have the honour to transmit a copy of Memorandum giving an epitome of the information and evidence in the possession of the Government. There is reason to believe that Hung Tsun Kwei was a prominent member of the conspiracy of which the Chinese Authorities received the first intimation from this Government. This man left Hongkong on the 31st March. A reward had been offered for his capture, dead or alive, and for the purpose of obtaining this reward a Cantonese bad character named Cheung Cho Ting appears to have conceived the crime of enticing to Hongkong a friend in Canton, who bore a likeness to Hung Tsun Kwei the conspirator, and there murdering him and returning the body to Canton as that of Hung Tsun Kwei and claiming the reward. Memorandum shows the manner in which this scheme was carried out. The action of the Chinese gunboat leaves no doubt that by some authority the gunboat was engaged on the service of conveying a kidnapped prisoner, or a murdered body from Hongkong, and there is evidence of the direct complicity of Admiral Ho in the violation of British territory.—I have, &c.,

HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor, &c.

II.

(From the Officer Administering the Government to His Majesty's Minister, Peking.)
Government House,
Hongkong, 20th April, 1904.

SIR,—With reference to Your Excellency's letter of the 1st of January and to previous correspondence, I have the honour to inform you that the murderer of the victim whose body was substituted for that of Hung Tsun-fuk has been duly brought to trial at Canton.

2. His Majesty's Consul-General there has communicated to me a memorandum of conditions of settlement of this case signed by the Viceroy's Foreign Secretary and himself, and I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that these terms are acceptable to this Government.—I have, &c.,

F. H. MAY,
Officer Administering the Government.

III.

(From His Majesty's Acting Consul-General, Canton, to the Acting Colonial Secretary.)
His Majesty's Consulate-General,
Canton, 5th May, 1904.

SIR,—With reference to my Despatch No. 120 of April 18th on the Hung Tsun-fuk case, I have the honour to inform you that Chang Cho-Ting was executed yesterday in the presence of two members of the Staff of this Consulate-General. I enclose a copy of Mr. Vice-Consul Giles' report on the subject.

I also enclose a translation of a Despatch received from the Viceroy, in which His Excellency apologises for the infringement of Hongkong territory, and thanks the Hongkong Government for the assistance given in the investigation of the whole case.—I have, &c.,

C. W. CAMPBELL,
Acting Consul-General

(Enclosure to No. 138 of the 5th May, 1904.
From Mr. B. Giles to Mr. C. W.
Campbell, C.M.G.)

His Majesty's Consulate-General,
Canton, 4th May, 1904.

SIR,—With reference to the case of the murder of Hung Tsun-fuk by Chang Cho-ting in Hongkong, I have the honour to report that, in accordance with your instructions, I proceeded this afternoon to the execution ground to be present at the execution of Chang Cho-ting by the Native Authorities. On arriving at the place Mr. Major, who accompanied me, identified

the criminal, who was then immediately beheaded in our presence.—I have, &c.,

BERTRAM GILES,
Vice-Consul.

IV.

(From the Acting Colonial Secretary to His Majesty's Acting Consul-General, Canton.)
Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 10th May, 1904.

SIR.—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 138 of the 5th instant in which you state that Chang Cho-ting was executed on the 4th inst., and enclosing a translation of a letter from the Viceroy of the Two Kwangs, in which he apologises for the violation of British Sovereignty committed at the instigation of Chinese Officials in connection with the case of Hung Tsun-fuk. I am to request you to be so good as to inform the Viceroy that this Government accepts his expressions of regret at the circumstance. His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government felt satisfied that when the facts were made known to His Excellency the Viceroy, he would use every effort to being the offenders to justice, and expects in due course to receive an assurance that the other persons implicated in the outrage have also undergone suitable punishment.—I have, &c.,

A. M. THOMSON,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

V.

From His Majesty's Acting Consul-General, Canton, to the Acting Colonial Secretary.
His Majesty's Consulate-General,
Canton, 27th May, 1904.

SIR,—With reference to your letter of May 10th, the contents of which I communicated to the Viceroy as requested, I have the honour to enclose, for the information of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government of Hongkong, a copy and translation of a Despatch therein enclosed appears to me to be satisfactory, and I propose to inform the Viceroy that as soon as I receive His Excellency's assurance that the punishments stated have been carried out the Hung Tsun-fuk case will be considered closed.—I have, &c.,

C. W. CAMPBELL,

Acting Consul-General.

(Enclosure to No. 157 of the 27th May, 1904.
Translation of a Despatch from Viceroy Ts'en to Mr. Campbell.)

SIR,—With reference to the case of Hung Tsun-fuk, I have the honour to inform you that I memorialised the Throne, praying that all the officials who had been implicated in the affair should be dealt with, each according to his deserts. On the 17th of May last I received an Imperial Edict, copy of which I herewith transmit for your information.—I have, &c.,

(Viceroy's Seal.)

Copy of Imperial Edict.

With reference to the Memorial of Viceroy Ts'en, praying for the punishment of the spy who compassed the death of the man he had deceived, thereby violating the territory of Hongkong and received a reward under false pretences; and that of the officials who connived at his offence; we hereby decree that Ho Wei-tsung, Senior Lieutenant in charge of the 4th Battalion of the 1st Division of the Provincial Admiral's troops; Lin Shan, Senior Lieutenant in charge of the 4th Battalion of the 4th Division under the command of the Colonel stationed at Chih-hsi; Fang Hsing-kuo, Su Ting-chet and Liu Chin-Yueh, Senior Sub-Lieutenants, and the deceased Sergeant Chu Chang are to be cashiered. Ho Chang-ching, Admiral for the Province of Kuangtung, who was guilty of neglect of duty, is to be removed from his post as a warning to others. For the rest, the matter is to be dealt with as suggested by the Viceroy.

VI.

(From His Majesty's Acting Consul-General, Canton, to the Acting Colonial Secretary.)
His Majesty's Consulate-General,
Canton, 20th June, 1904.

SIR,—With reference to my letter No. 157 of May 27th I have the honour to enclose a copy and translation of a Despatch from the Viceroy, in which His Excellency states that Admiral Ho has been removed, and that the minor officials

concerned in the Hung Tsun-fuk case have been dismissed. I have informed the Viceroy that the case may now be considered closed.—I have, &c..

C. M. CAMPBELL,

Acting Consul-General.

(Enclosure to No. 185 of the 20th June, 1904.

From Viceroy Ts'en to Mr. Campbell).

Translation.

16th June, 1904.

SIR.—With reference to the Hung Tsun-fuk case, I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Despatch of the 5th instant stating that you had communicated the contents of my Despatch on the subject to the Government of Hongkong, who had replied that when all the terms of settlement mentioned in the Imperial Edict had been duly carried out, the case might then be considered as definitely closed.

I was on the point of drafting a reply to you, when a communication on the subject came to hand from the Wai Wu Pu. The Wai Wu Pu therein informed me that, having received from the Grand Council a copy of the Imperial Edict issued in answer to the memorial presented by me detailing the circumstances of the case and asking for the punishment of those implicated, they forwarded the same, together with a copy of my original memorial to the British Minister, who had expressed his acknowledgments for such a very satisfactory settlement.

When the Imperial Edict above referred to was telegraphed to me, I immediately sent copies to the various officials concerned for their guidance, as well as one to you for your information. Since then Admiral Ho Chan-ching has been removed from his post; and the vacancies caused by the dismissal of the other officers implicated have been filled by temporary substitutes. The terms of settlement have thus been carried out in full; and I would therefore ask you to inform the Governor of Hongkong accordingly.—I have, &c..

(Viceroy's Seal.)

VII.

(From the Acting Colonial Secretary to His Majesty's Consul-General, Canton.)

Colonial Secretary's Office.

Hongkong, 25th June, 1904.

SIR.—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant enclosing copy of despatch from the Viceroy of the Two Kwangs stating that Admiral Ho had been removed from office and that the minor officials concerned in the Hung case had been dismissed. You added that you had informed the Viceroy that the case may now be considered closed.

On behalf of this Government, I am to thank you for the valuable assistance rendered by you in connection with this case.—I have, &c..

A. M. THOMSON,

Act. Colonial Secretary.

SUPREME COURT.

Tuesday, 12th July.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH
(PUISNE JUDGE.)

ACTION FOR ALLEGED MALICIOUS
PROSECUTION.

Li Fook sued Yeung Po alias Yung Tsui San for \$500 for alleged malicious prosecution. Mr. Otto Kong Sing, solicitor, appeared for the plaintiff. Defendant appeared in person.

Mr. Kong Sing stated that plaintiff was a contractor of 20 years' standing. On the information of the defendant, he was arrested on 18th June last on a charge of bribery and was acquitted on the 22nd by the Magistrate.

Li Fook, the plaintiff, stated in his evidence that he was a builder at 34, High Street, Sang-kun. He had been in business there for 24 years. He had a contract at Happy Valley Cemetery just now. He got the contract in the latter part of May last and was working there on 17th June. The work was preparing stone to put up a wall on the hillside. The outside was to be of stone and the inside of concrete. It was to be built of rough stone. The

defendant was engaged on the works overseeing men. Witness did not engage him. Defendant said he was a Government man. Witness did not know whether or not he was a P.W.D. man. Defendant gave directions to witness's overseer of works as to how the work was to be done. Before the 17th of June he had three or four quarrels with defendant. Ultimately, on the 17th, they had another quarrel about the work. It was a violent quarrel; they quarrelled until his face got red. He then left the work. Defendant remained. On the following day he was arrested in his house. Defendant accompanied the English and Chinese policemen who arrested him. Witness was taken to the Central Police Station and put in a cell. He appeared at the Magistracy on the 20th and was remanded till the 22nd, when he was acquitted. The charge against him was that he had offered \$3 to the defendant. Witness did not offer him \$3 or any money. There was no reason why defendant should have laid this charge against him. The expenses incurred by him in his defence amounted to \$60.

By the Court.—He got to the work at 11 a.m. on the 17th. He heard defendant saying to the overseer that the stones should be broken up to be used and all should be of the same size. Witness told him that the plan did not require that, as it specified both big and small stones. Defendant said he did not know the work and witness told him he did not know how it should be done. The quarrel lasted about half-an-hour. Mr. C. D. Melbourne, chief clerk at the Magistracy, produced and proved certain documents dealing with the case.

Sergeant Mortimer O'Sullivan gave evidence regarding the arrest of the plaintiff.

Yeung Po, the defendant, said he was a foreman employed by the Public Works Department. He was engaged at Happy Valley Cemetery on 17th June. About 11 o'clock that day Li Fook came to him, and speaking in Chinese asked him to look "wide" at the work. The wall that was being constructed was not according to the specification; there were large stones in it and he would not pass it. He was about to leave the work at midday when Li Fook again approached and asked him to look "wide" at the work, at the same time giving him \$3. Witness then made a complaint at the Public Works Office about what had occurred.

His Lordship said he did not consider that the plaintiff had made out any case at all, and he gave judgment for the defendant with costs.

Wednesday, 13th July.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THEIR HONOURS SIR W. M. GOOD-
MAN (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND T. SERCOMBE
SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE.)

FUNG KAM V. THE KWONG SANG LOONG
AND WONG KWONG SAN.

Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. H. W. Looker, of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon, solicitors), appeared on behalf of the appellant and applied for leave to appeal against the decision of Mr. Justice Sercombe Smith in Summary Action No. 824 of 1904, heard on 7th July, on the grounds that such decision was erroneous in point of fact and that under the terms on which the respondent rented the premises situated at Nos. 104 and 106, Station Street, Yaumati, from the appellant the respondent was liable to make good to the appellant the cost of certain walls and doors removed by the respondents at the commencement of their tenancy.

The facts of the case were that the property had been leased to the appellant by the Crown lessee, and that the appellant had in turn let it to the respondents. The respondents carried on the trade of boilermaking, and for the purpose of their trade they obtained leave from the appellant to remove certain doors and walls in the two houses, with regard to which a special agreement was entered into as follows:—The Kwong Shang Lung Hing Ki has rented the whole premises of Nos. 104 and 106, Station Street, Yaumati. In future when the firm removes and discontinues to rent the shops all the upper and lower walls and doors must be replaced by them as they were originally before

the shop could be treated as taken back. If the landlord takes back the shops to rent them to other persons the said walls and doors need not be repaired. If the laws of the English Government prohibit the working of the shop the said walls and doors must be replaced by the tenant. This was entered into to prevent future disputes.

Mr. Slade stated that at the time the agreement was entered into it was known that the Government were taking steps to prohibit noisy trades, and for the purposes of providing against loss the agreement was entered into. Some time after the beginning of last year the Crown Lessee received a notice from the Colonial Secretary to the effect that on the premises at Nos. 104 and 106, Station Street, Yaumati, a noisy trade was being carried on without a licence from the Government, which was in contravention of the convention under which the Crown Lease was issued. Unless such contravention was discontinued before the end of 1904 the Crown would take steps to re-enter the land. The Crown Lessee passed the letter on to the appellant, who in turn handed it to the respondent, at the same time telling him that unless the trade was stopped the Government would cancel the lease for the land. Under those circumstances Mr. Slade submitted that it was for the tenant to replace the doors and walls which he had removed. He submitted the decision of the Puisse Judge was wrong, whether in point of fact or in point of law he could not say, but it seemed to him that the action was one of those mixtures of law and fact.

The Chief Justice—What you appeal on is the meaning of the agreement. That is a point of law.

Mr. Slade said it was partly a question of law and partly of fact.

The Chief Justice pointed out that the plaintiff himself had stated that this was a monthly tenancy and had been shown the letter from the Government and told to go. It was quite clear that the landlord had to protect himself and told these people to go because the Crown had given notice that the trade must be stopped. There was a stipulation in the lease that if the lessee carried on a noisy trade he must get a licence from the Crown or else the Government would re-enter. That was a special agreement. It was not the law. The Government wrote in January, 1904, stating that the premises were being used for a noisy trade without a licence from the Government and in contravention of the covenant contained in the Crown lease, and that unless such contravention ceased before 1st December, 1904, the Crown would re-enter upon the premises.

Mr. Slade argued that this agreement was made in anticipation of the exact circumstances which took place. The term "law" used in the agreement would mean an order of the English Government. When the landlord told the tenant that he had to go there was no specific time mentioned by him. There was no legal notice of the contravention at the end of December, because it was given in the middle of the month. The tenant need not have gone at that date; there was no obligation upon him to go then.

The Chief Justice said he took the first section of the agreement to mean that if the tenant gave notice of removal he must repair the premises to the extent to which he had altered the doors and walls. The second section was that if the landlord gave the tenant notice to quit the tenant need not do any repairs. The third section meant that if the law prevented the work being carried on the repairs must be done by the tenant. That might mean either that an Ordinance was passed prohibiting noisy trades or an injunction was taken by some person against the trade being carried on.

Mr. Slade contended that that was putting upon the language of the agreement the most technical construction and obscuring the original meaning. An exact parallel would be for his Lordship to tell him that if he did not stop talking within so many minutes he would be sent to gaol. The contract was that if by any means the British Government took steps to stop the carrying out of a boiler maker's trade on these premises then the person who had carried out the trade and had done damage to the walls was the person who had to repair the damage he had done.

The Chief Justice said he did not feel any difficulty about this matter, therefore he would give his reasons at once. He did not think leave to appeal should be given unless some *prima facie* case was made out. In this case the matter had been very well put by Mr. Slade and put as fairly and fully as possible. In August, 1901, the defendants in the Court below became tenants of certain premises which they wanted to use for boiler-making purposes. This was a noisy trade and it required premises adapted to the work. The tenants went in and they made some holes in the walls to suit their work. The tenancy was monthly—oral, not written—and it was stipulated what was to happen as regards repairs. There were three clauses. The first stipulated that if the tenants removed the premises must be replaced as they were originally. That provided that if the tenants suddenly abandoned the premises they had to repair the walls and the doors. If the landlord took back the shops and rented them to other persons the walls and doors need not be repaired, which he thought, meant that if the landlord determined the tenancy the tenant need not do the repairs. There was then the third provision which he could only take in the words of the translation furnished by the plaintiff in the Court below. This was to the effect that if the laws of the English Government prohibited the people from working in these shops then the walls and doors must be repaired as they originally were. It was admitted that the carrying on of a boiler-making trade was a noisy trade and might be a nuisance and probably would be unless carried on in some place suitable for it. There had been complaints apparently, and the Government decided to put a stop to some of those noisy trades. They did not seem to want to proceed harshly, for they gave two years' notice to the people beforehand so that they might look out for suitable premises. On 1st December, 1902, the Government gave notice to the Crown lessee in this case that a noisy trade was being carried on in the premises of which he was the registered owner, without a licence and in contravention of the covenant contained in the Crown lease; and that unless such contravention ceased before 1st December, 1904, the Crown would proceed to re-enter upon the premises pursuant to the conditions of the Crown lease. The letter containing this notice was handed by the Crown lessee to the sub-lessee, the landlord in this case, who went to the tenant, showed it to him and told him to go. His Lordship could not conceive anything much more clear than that intimation to go. It was a notice to quit, not through any desire on the part of the landlord to get rid of the tenant, but because he did not want to endanger his Crown lease. His lease was not endangered by the law of the land but by the special covenant which he had entered into in that lease. Therefore it did not seem to his Lordship that the law of the land, the law of English Government, stopped those people from working. Indeed the letter from the English Government in its broadest interpretation did not stop them from working till several months later. Therefore instead of waiting until that letter stopped them from working, the lessee, as soon as he got this letter, went and saw the tenant and said he had to go. The tenant looked about for new premises. He paid his rent up to the end of the month, although he had gone in the middle of the month. Plaintiff claimed \$687, being \$192 for four months' rent and the balance for breach of contract to put the premises into repair. Was there such a breach of contract? He thought that if a person had come down and got an injunction against him under the ordinary law the tenant would have had to do the repairs. If an Ordinance had been passed saying that within a certain radius no boiler-making establishments could be carried on, under those circumstances the law of the British Government would have stepped in and he would have had to repair. Neither of these things happened. He was told to go, the reason being that the landlord is afraid that if he does not comply with the terms of his Crown lease it would be endangered. His Lordship thought that leave to appeal should not be granted. If leave were granted he was of opinion that the appeal would be dismissed, even if no one appeared on the other side.

The Puisne Judge concurred.

Thursday, 14th July.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR W. M. GOODMAN
(CHIEF JUSTICE).

RECEIVING ORDER.

Mr. C. E. H. Beavis, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, solicitors, appeared in support of an application for a receiving order in the case of Ng Wan Ching (deceased) ex parte Tong Shan Nam. He stated that the estate was shown to be insufficient for the payment of its debts.

His Lordship made a receiving order and appointed the Official Receiver (Mr. Bruce Shepherd) trustee.

AN ISSUE ORDERED.

In the bankruptcy case of Li Cheung ex parte the debtor, Mr. H. K. Holmes, solicitor, appeared in support of an application for Li Cheung and others to appear in Court, made by the Wing Fung Tai firm. It appeared that the applicant had a lease of certain property from the bankrupt and wanted compensation for its withdrawal.

The Official Receiver stated that he had authority from two of the creditors to offer \$1,000 in respect of this claim, and it had been refused.

His Lordship said that after looking into the case he would say that \$2,000 was a fair sum to pay in the way of compensation.

The representative of the Wing Fung Tai said he would have to consult his partner in Canton before agreeing to those terms.

After further discussion.

His Lordship ordered an issue to be tried as to whether the lease was valid for 30 years at \$72.50 per month from October, 1905.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 14th instant in the Board Room. Dr. J. M. Atkinson presided, and there were also present Hon. E. N. Jones (Vice-President), Hon. A. W. Brewin, Registrar-General; Mr. F. J. Badesley, Captain of Police; Colonel W. E. Webb, R.A.M.C.; Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Mr. Fung Wa Chun; Mr. A. Rumjahn; Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C.; Dr. W. W. Pearse, Medical Officer of Health; Dr. H. A. Macfarlane, Assistant Medical Officer of Health; and Mr. T. A. Hanmer (Secretary).

CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE.

The first item on the agenda was the following resolution:—That Inspector Robert Gardner McEwen be appointed for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the bye-laws for the Prevention or Mitigation of Epidemic, Endemic or Contagious Disease, under the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903.

The PRESIDENT moved that it be considered in private, and the motion was agreed to.

QUESTIONS.

The PRESIDENT stated that there had been two questions received from Mr. Rumjahn, too late for circulation, but as the answers had been got ready he thought they might be given now.

The questions were as follows:—

1. Has the attention of the President been drawn to a paragraph in the *Daily Press* of the 13th inst. under the heading "Canton," which states that owing to the recent heavy rains "the total disappearance of plague here can be attributed only to this cause," thus proving my contention previously made, that after heavy rains cleansing the drains and washing the houses Canton would be comparatively free from plague; and what steps does the President intend to take to flush the drains of this city in addition to the general cleansing of houses which is being carried out?

2. Will the President be good enough to request the Government to direct the occupants of buildings situate within the areas of water supply from Pokfulam and Wongnieheong Reservoirs to allow their taps to run continuously for such time as the overflow from these reservoirs lasts, with a view of flushing their house drains and to make no charge for extra consumption during that period on the occupants who are supplied with water, instead of

allowing the overflow from these two reservoirs to waste.

The PRESIDENT stated in answer to the first question that he was unaware that any connection had been shown between drains and plague. The VICE-PRESIDENT replied to the second question as follows:—

The upkeep of the public drains of the city is in the hands of the Public Works Department and tanks are in existence for the purpose of flushing the street sewers. The house drains at this time of the year get well flushed from the flow of rainfall into them off portions of the roofs and the yards of houses—possibly a quantity considerably in excess of what the street sewers were designed to carry.

It would be quite impossible to entertain this suggestion for the reason alone that the filter-beds of the waterworks could not meet the demand on them thus entailed (for all the water must be filtered that goes through the main) and the service reservoirs would quickly run dry if countless taps were opened simultaneously. Again, this suggested method of flushing is useless—the running of a tap does not cause a flush, that a tank or a shower of rain ensures. At the present time there are no reservoirs overflowing.

Mr. POLLOCK asked if the flushing tank which had been erected near the Cathedral had been constantly put in use for flushing purposes and whether or no the flushing operations had been successful?

The VICE-PRESIDENT stated that the tank had been flushing twice a day and the results were satisfactory.

NULLAHS.

There had been sent to the Government a recommendation regarding the training of a nullah at the west side of the Racecourse and two running into the Parade Ground at Mount Austin Barracks. The Colonial Secretary replied that the matter had been noted for further consideration; but that there were other nullahs more important than those mentioned which would have to be dealt with first.

URBAN AND RURAL DISTRICTS.

A minute by the Sanitary Surveyor relative to urban and rural districts in Kowloon and on the mainland generally was referred back to the M. O. H. and the Sanitary Surveyor.

A NUISANCE.

There was submitted a petition from householders and residents at Kowloon requesting the cancellation of a pigstye licence and the removal of a piggery at the corner of Garden and Chater Roads.

The PRESIDENT said he had caused the M. O. H. to make enquiries into this matter and there was little doubt that the piggery was a nuisance.

Mr. POLLOCK moved that when the question of the renewal of the licence was brought up the licence should be refused.

Hon. Mr. BREWIN seconded, and the motion was adopted.

AUTHORISED CONTRACTORS.

An application from Messrs. Sang Lee & Co. requesting that their name may be placed on the list of authorised contractors was approved on the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by Mr. RUMJAHN.

APPLICATIONS.

A number of applications for exemption from the provisions of the Public Health and Buildings Bill were also considered.

LIMEWASHING.

There was laid on the table correspondence relative to the advisability of inserting in the limewashing advertisement the exact requirements of the Board in connection with the limewashing of premises.

The President wrote that he thought it would be advisable to insert in the advertisement the exact requirements.

The M. O. H. minuted that the word "throughout" used in this notice meant that the houses should be limewashed in respect of all the walls of each room and staircase—all cubicle partitions, stair-casings and stair-linings, all ceilings and the undersides of roofs both in main buildings and offices and servants' quarters and inclusive of verandahs. The backyard should have its containing walls limewashed up to the level of the first floor. Carved, painted and polished woodwork in good

condition, however, need not be limewashed, but must be cleansed.

Mr. H. E. Pollock minuted—"Yes; the advertisement should be definite."

Mr. Lau Chu Pak—"I agree with Mr. Pollock."

CATTLE DISEASE AT KIUKIANG.

There was laid on the table a report relative to the prevalence of cattle disease at Kiukiang. Mr. W. J. Clennell, British Consul at that port, having written notifying the fact.

The Colonial Veterinary Surgeon minuted that "we get no cattle from Shanghai but our sheep and goats come via that port. I believe, however, that they are not reared there but further north. I do not think any action is necessary."

WANCHAI BATH-HOUSES.

During the month of June, it was reported, 24,785 men were admitted to the Wanchai bath-houses.

Inspector Lyon reported that there was a falling off at the end of the month, which was owing to the heavy rainfall and the general full supply of water provided to a great part of No. 2 District owing to the outbreak of cholera.

Mr. Hewett minuted—"On the face of it I cannot believe that these figures are correct. The Inspector's explanation does not seem reasonable. Does he imply that a large number of people were turned away from the door because there was no water?"

Mr. Rumjahn: "Who makes up the record? Is it reliable? Figures from the first to the last day of the month either end in 0 or 5."

FOOD AND DRUGS.

Mr. A. C. Franklin's report for the quarter ended 30th ult. showed that two samples of whisky and four of brandy had been analysed and that all were found to be pure.

RATS.

A return was laid on the table showing that during the fortnight ended 11th inst. 1026 rats were killed. Of these 72 were found to be infected with plague.

THE HONGKONG BLUE BOOK.

In his General Observations on the Hongkong Blue Book for 1903, the Officer Administering the Government says:

Sir Henry Blake, G.C.M.G., left the Colony for Ceylon on the 21st November, and I administered the Government from that date until the end of the year. Major-General Sir William Gascoigne, K.C.M.G., who has commanded the troops for the last five years and who on two occasions (1900 and 1902) administered the Government of the Colony, relinquished his command in September, and was succeeded by Major-General Villiers Hatton, C.B.

The figures already given at the beginning of this Report are evidence of the continued prosperity of this Port. The fluctuations of the silver-market and the partial commercial depression arising from the prospect of political disturbances in the Far East, have with other causes contributed to prevent the past year from being marked by special buoyancy of trade or steadiness in the stock market; but there is nothing to indicate that the trade interests and the wealth of this Colony have ceased to expand. But if the port is to preserve its predominant position as a great emporium for shipping, there are many problems which demand early consideration and timely action, such as the increase of the accommodation in the Harbour for ocean-going steamers, the provision of more space for the housing of an ever-increasing population, and the further development of the trade of the West River and its tributaries by the opening of new ports. Over-shadowing all these questions, however, is the pressing necessity for the speedy construction of the railway between Hongkong and Canton, for which a concession was granted to a British syndicate many years ago by the Chinese Government. The development of railway enterprise in other parts of China has, in the opinion of Government and the entire commercial community, rendered it of paramount importance to the prosperity of Hongkong that this Colony should be connected by railway with the capital of the Kwangtung Province which is to be connected by a trunk line with the Yangtze Valley.

INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION CO.

The twenty-third ordinary general meeting of the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, (Ltd.) was held on 7th instant at the offices of the company, 29, Cornhill, E.C. Mr. W. Keswick, M.P. (chairman) presided. The Secretary (Mr. A. G. Wells) having read the notice convening the meeting, and the auditors' report, the CHAIRMAN said:—

Gentlemen, the report that you have in your hands briefly, but I think clearly, states the course of events during the past year. I have just refreshed my memory by looking at what was said last year when we met, and if I had to enlarge upon what the report contains I would only repeat in a great measure what was then said. The year was one of depression throughout the world for shipping, and in China there was no exception to that condition. From almost the beginning competition was extremely keen and the amount of freight less than usual. Considerable financial pressure in China, limited the amount of business done by the natives, and for that limited business there was an excessive amount of tonnage available. The consequence has been that for last year we had very considerably reduced earnings. We were fortunate enough to escape any serious loss in the underwriting account, and that fact, combined with a reduction in the amount of risk covered, has enabled us to transfer a considerable sum from it to increase revenue account and provide sufficient to entirely meet what we have never neglected since the company began—an ample amount for depreciation of the fleet; and touching upon that point, I will allude to the fact that from the very beginning of this company's history, it has made full provision in every year for the proper upkeep of the steamers. The overhaul is of a very thorough character, and everything required to keep the fleet in a first-class condition has been provided. (Applause). We do so because we desire to avoid deterioration, and do want absolute efficiency. This we have secured. (Applause). I think that is about all I need say with regard to last year. I am pleased to say that this year we have begun better—not in the first month, but in subsequent months of the year up to date, the earnings of the Fleet promise improvement. How long such a condition of things will last it is impossible to forecast, but in China, when there has been a period of depression, it is followed usually by a period of greater activity, and I hope that this season will prove no exception. We have sold out of the Fleet two steamers which were getting rather out of date, and you will have observed in the Report that we have added five new steamers. It is our intention, as circumstances demand additional vessels, to reinforce our fleet with the most modern steamers, to keep pace with the requirements of trade. It is most important in the great traffic that we participate in, that we should be able to meet our customers' requirements fully. The transfer that we have made enables us to propose to you the payment of a dividend of 5 per cent. free of income tax. That dividend will absorb the sum of £24,794 10s., and leave to be carried forward into the present year a balance of £5,853 6s. 8d. I think, gentlemen, you will agree with me that, considering the year we have passed through, the account which we present is one with which we should be satisfied. I beg to move the adoption of the report.

Mr. W. PATERSON seconded.

Dr. DIVERS: I should like to ask two questions. One question is, what is meant by "Cover has been provided"? Does that mean outside insurance, so as to lighten the loss to our underwriting account should there be a total loss of a steamer? And the other question is whether, as a matter of fact, we did not carry on the business last year at a loss, and whether we pay the dividend only by the transfer from underwriting account.

The CHAIRMAN: The "cover" alluded to was insurance effected and paid for, and the transfer from underwriting account was, as stated in the report, appropriated to provide, together with the earnings of the year, for full depreciation, and the payment of the proposed dividend.

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN: The next resolution is: "That a dividend of five per cent., as recommended in the report, be and is hereby declared, payable on the 8th inst."—that is to-morrow.

Sir EDWARD F. ALFORD: I beg to second that resolution; and I would also say, from a long experience of this company, that the grounds upon which we have declared a five per cent. dividend are, in my opinion, not only perfectly justifiable, but due to the shareholders.

Carried unanimously.

Mr. PATERSON: The third resolution, which I propose, is, "That the director, Sir Edward F. Alford, be re-elected."—Mr. H. BEAZLY seconded. Carried unanimously.

Mr. SAWER: I have pleasure in proposing, "That Messrs. Turquand, Youngs & Co. be re-elected as auditors of this company."—Mr. R. H. R. BURDER seconded. Carried *nem. con.*

BELL'S ASBESTOS EASTERN AGENCY, LIMITED.

NINTH ANNUAL REPORT.

In London, on the 21st ult, the directors presented the report and accounts, to the 31st December, 1903, showing a profit of £797. 13s. 10d.

To this has to be added the sum of £350, carried forward from the last account, making a total of £1,147. 13s. 10d.

This amount the directors recommended should be allocated as follows: To pay £500 off the debenture bond, to write £300 off "Purchase of trading rights," being 10 per cent. of that sum, to pay a dividend of 4 per cent. for the year, free of income tax, absorbing £185. 19s. and to carry forward £161. 14s. 10d. to the next account.

Mr. A. G. Anger retired by rotation, and, being eligible, offered himself for re-election.

Mr. John Cooper, the Company's auditor, also retired, and offered himself for re-appointment.

The accounts are as follows:—

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the year ending 31st December, 1903.		
Dr.	£	s. d.
To trade expenses	41	1 8
To London office expenses	187	3 7
To directors' fees, 1903.....	£250	0 0
Arrears	2	10 0
	252	10 0
To auditor's fee	10	10 0
To debenture interest.....	185	6 9
To income tax	13	7 6
To advertisements	38	3 9
To depreciation on furniture	2	0 9
To balance, net profit	1,147	13 10
	£1,878	3 10
Cr.	£	s. d.
By balance brought from last account ...	350	0 0
By discounts &c	226	6 2
By commission	183	0 11
By transfer fees	1	0 0
By profit on trading	1,112	16 9
	£1,878	3 10

BALANCE-SHEET.

31st December, 1903.		
Dr.	LIABILITIES.	£ s. d.
To authorised capital:—		
8,604 shares of 12s. 6d. each £5,377 10 0		
To subscribed capital:—		
7,438 shares, 12s. 6d. each, fully paid 4,048 15 0		
To sundry creditors:—		
London and branches		2,857 9 9
To debenture bond		3,500 0 0
To directors' fees not drawn		125 0 0
To reserve for bad and doubtful debts		64 11 9
To contingent liability for goods on consignment, per contra		£530 18 8
To profit and loss account, balance		1,147 13 10
Note.—Exchange is taken at—		
Singapore		1s. 9.9-16d. per dollar.
Hongkong		1s. 8½d. per dollar.
		£12,313 10 4

Cr.	ASSETS.	£ s. d.
By cash at bank and in hand:—		
At London and branches		533 5 4
By London assets:—		
Sundry debtors.....		38 17 3
Office furniture		21 1 0
		57 18 9

By Hongkong agency assets:—			
Furniture	33 14 9		
Steam launch	514 0 11		
Sundry debtors	365 7 10		
Stock	2,621 16 6		
		3,535 0 0	
By Singapore agency assets:—			
Furniture	36 18 4		
Sundry debtors	1,392 12 9		
Stock	2,017 9		
Stock on consignment	522 9 11		
		4,855 18 9	
By goods in transit		282 6 0	
By consignment sales		79 2 0	
By purchase of trading rights		3,000 0 0	
By goods on consignment, per contra	530 18 8		
			£12,341 1 4

PUNJOM MINING CO., LD.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

An extraordinary general meeting of this company was held at the registered offices of the Company, No. 13, Beaconsfield Arcade, Hongkong, on the 12th instant. Those present were Messrs. R. C. Wilcox (chairman), W. Kerfoot Hughes (director), H. C. Wilcox, S. A. Joseph, A. R. Ezekiel, E. J. Figueiredo, A. H. Ribeiro, and F. S. Joseph (shareholders), G. C. C. Master (solicitor), and A. R. Lowe (acting secretary).

The business for which the meeting was convened was the consideration of the following resolutions:—

1. That it is desirable to reconstruct the Company, and accordingly that the Company be wound up voluntarily and that Arthur Rylands Lowe be and he is hereby appointed Liquidator for the purpose of such winding up.

2. That the said Liquidator be and he is hereby authorised to consent to the registration of a new Company, to be called The North Punjom Mining Company, Limited, with a Memorandum and Articles of Association which have already been prepared with the privity and approval of the Directors of this Company.

3. That the draft agreement submitted to this meeting and expressed to be made between this Company of the first part and its Liquidator of the second part and the new Company of the third part be and the same is hereby approved, and the said Liquidator be and he is hereby authorised, pursuant to Section 149 of the Companies Ordinance, 1865, to enter into an agreement with such new Company when incorporated in the terms of the said draft, and to carry the same into effect with such (if any) modifications as he thinks expedient.

The meeting had been conveyed for eleven o'clock. Half-past eleven came and a quorum had not appeared, the necessary number being ten members.

At this stage, the CHAIRMAN said he regretted to say there was not a quorum. The meeting would stand adjourned until the same hour of the same day in the following week—that was to say, at eleven o'clock on Tuesday next.

Mr. E. S. JOSEPH suggested that the hour of meeting be altered. Next Tuesday was the day before the departure of the German Mail and shareholders might not have time to come there. Some hour in the afternoon would be much more convenient for the general body of the shareholders.

The CHAIRMAN said they had to be governed by the articles of the Company. Article 75 which applied in this case provided that if within half-an-hour from the time appointed for a meeting a quorum was not present the meeting should be dissolved and stand adjourned until the same day in the next week at the same time and place, and if at that adjourned meeting a quorum was not present members who were present should be a quorum and might transact the business for which the meeting had been convened. That was the article by which they were governed and he was unable to make any alteration in the hour or the date. In that they were guided by their solicitors.

The meeting then dissolved.

The Queen's Scholarship for the Straits Settlements this year has been won by a Chinese youth, Lim Guan-cheng. The *Pinang Gazette* hears that he goes to England at the end of this month.

TEBRAU PLANTING CO., LD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The eighth ordinary general meeting of the Tebrau Planting Company, Limited, was held at the offices of the general managers, Alexandra Buildings, on the 14th inst. when there were present Messrs. Henry Humphreys (chairman), J. A. Jupp, E. Georg, G. M. Bain, W. B. Sutton, Lau Chu Pak, J. M. Wong, and J. L. Cotter (secretary).

The notice convening the meeting having been read.—

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen.—The report and statement of accounts having been in your possession for some days, I will, with your permission, follow the usual practice, and take them as read. Mr. Larken's report, which is attached to the report and statement of accounts, will give you full information as to the work done on our plantation, and it will not be necessary for me therefore to say much about that. With regard to the coffee plantation, you may remember we informed you last year that we had been obliged to farm it out to our own coolies, who paid us one fifth of the produce as rent. From this source we received \$955.21, as you will see by the accounts. The coolies gave up work in April last as they found it unremunerative and coffee has now been entirely abandoned. The amount hitherto standing in the books as an asset under the heading of coffee plantation has therefore been written off. Profit and loss account has been credited with an amount of \$6,575.00, being calls paid on shares subsequently forfeited. As regards our prospects, I may inform you that we are at present endeavouring to arrange the sale of the Company's property through Mr. Larken at a price which will give us sufficient to return to the shareholders about 40 per cent of their capital. If this falls through and the price of rubber seems likely to be maintained we must later on consider whether it would not be to the interests of the shareholders to subscribe further capital after writing down our present capital sufficiently to cover our losses. The price we are getting for our rubber is an extremely good one, and if we had enough of it, we could pay good dividends. Before moving the adoption of the report I shall be pleased to answer any questions that shareholders may desire to put.

There being no questions, the CHAIRMAN proposed, Mr. G. M. BAIN seconded, and it was agreed, that the report and accounts as presented be adopted and passed.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that Mr. W. Hutton Potts be re-elected auditor.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK seconded, and the motion was carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business of the meeting, gentlemen. Thank you for your attendance.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 11th July.

IT'S AN ILL RAIN, &C.

The heavy rains which have prevailed during the last three or four weeks are very disagreeable to the casual globe-trotter, or to those on pleasure bent, but there is no doubt that they do an enormous amount of good to countryside and city alike. The total disappearance of plague here can be attributed only to this cause. There had been a good deal of rain in the earlier part of the year, but nothing like the continuous and very heavy rains which have washed the city clean of late.

RICE.

An excellent rice-crop was promised for this season, and the promise seems to be fulfilled, for on every side one hears that rice is very cheap, and I am told that the paddy fields are everywhere in splendid condition.

A RAID ON ROBBERS.

The authorities made a great coup early in this moon in the Shun Tak department. The district of Chan Shun was noted as a hotbed of robbers, whose depredations had for years been carried on with impunity. The band lived in a stronghold connected by subterranean passages with a number of houses scattered round about, so that, with due warning, escape was easy whenever an attack was made on them. At

length, however, prompted no doubt by the Viceroy, the Kwong Yip, a high police official, went down to Shun Tak district, and joining forces with the local prefect, invaded the stronghold of the thieves at an hour when all were asleep. Lulled into security by impunity from attack, the brigands had omitted to place sentinels, so that they were caught unprepared, and out of a total of 80 members of the band, fifty-four fell into the hands of the Kwong Yip, and are now languishing in the gaols of Canton, awaiting sentence. A large amount of booty was secured and also two small guns, 70 good rifles, and a number of "laughs-in-the-face," the Chinese name for revolver.

The Viceroy may well congratulate himself on the work done in the suppression of brigandage during his term of office. This last coup in January may recall to mind the capture of Ao Chap, and the consequent dispersal of the large band of pirates who followed him. These two events alone have, if only temporarily, given a set-back to the focus of disorder.

FRONTIER NOTES.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

12th July.

RICE.

Notwithstanding the torrential rains which we have had of late, calculated as they were to damage seriously the paddy crops, rice is more plentiful this year all over San On than it has been for several seasons. It is a dispensation of Providence that the crop should have been so plentiful, for much of the ripened grain was washed out of the ear in the floods which filled every valley. The paddy is now being cut and threshed. In the Samchun market the best winnowed new rice can be got for \$2.30 and the next quality for \$2.20, per picul. Last year at this time it was selling at \$3 per picul.

A CHINESE TRAIT.

An incident occurred lately near Samchun which shows a strange trait in the Chinese character. As many in Hongkong will know, passengers are brought down from the Customs station in boats to meet the Hongkong launches, the river being too shallow to permit the latter to run up the entire distance. These boats generally start away down the river long before the launch is due, and they make fast to the bank to await its coming. The wait is wearisome enough in all conscience, broiling hot in summer and piercingly cold in winter. But the conditions under which a party of Europeans suffered the other day were very much worse than usual. There was the carcass of a half-grown buffalo sticking in the mud on the bank, all swollen up and decomposed to such an extent that the "hum" was perceptible many yards off. One would have thought the boatmen with their many passengers would have given the stinking carcass a wide berth. But no. They had the whole extent of bank to choose from, and by preference they moored right alongside the dead animal. The Europeans protested, but the boatmen paid no heed to them. The Chinese passengers laughed and joked about the buffalo, and appeared to enjoy the smell greatly as an olfactory treat.

RAIN.

The recent six days' rain made each mountain stream into a roaring torrent, filling up the low-lying valleys with water, making them look like huge lakes. Last Sunday the rains up country must have been very heavy. The tributaries of the Samchun River flowing from the north-west were very much swollen.

FRUIT.

Pineapples are being shipped at Samchun in large quantities. They are cheap and of excellent quality.

WILD ANIMALS.

A species of wolf is sometimes seen in the New Territory and these beasts are often reported having committed depredations upon domestic animals. The other morning a police sergeant saw one of these wolves within 20 yards of his station. He fired a round of buck shot at the animal, which, although severely wounded, managed to escape into the hills. From a village in the New Territory comes another report that one of these wolves descended from the hills in the early morning and carried off a small pig.

"STAR" FERRY.

THE PROPOSED WHARVES AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS.

The plan of the new ferry wharves has just been completed. They will be both alike. The one on the Hongkong side will take the place of the existing one, while that at Kowloon, as is generally known, will be to the eastward of the Water Police Basin, quite near the waterfront corner. Salisbury Road will be extended right to the wharf, two godowns being demolished to make way for it. The road, also, will be widened to a width of 100 ft., the back portion of the block of buildings around the waterfront corner being pulled down to allow this. These buildings are the property of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., which is receiving as compensation from the Government the ground now occupied by that portion of the two public roads at present running between their godowns. At first the Government thought of conceding to them in addition the road lying between the end godown and the Torpedo Depot; but, as the Naval authorities objected, this will remain a thoroughfare. With the exception of the small area belonging to the Water Police, the Godown Co. own the whole frontage right from the Torpedo Depot to the police pier at Macdonnell Road. When the new arrangements are completed the roads leading to this frontage will be that at the Torpedo Depot, Macdonnell Road, and the continuation of Salisbury Road. Landing at the new ferry wharf, Kowloon residents will no longer have to thread their way through a maze of cargo work; they will make an exit on to a decent public road. Work in connection with the new landing will be commenced in about a month's time. The new structure ought to be finished six or eight months afterwards, and be ready for the public by next April.

The new wharf will be a two-pronged affair, and the ferry-boat will enter between its projections. Arrangements will be made, however, whereby an additional "prong" can be added, thereby allowing for the accommodation of two steamers receiving or discharging, as the case may be, at the same time. In the first instance the frontage of the pier will be 96 ft. long, but later the additional prong will put on another 56 ft. The length of the outer projections will be 136 ft., the central one will be 30 ft. broad, and the outer each 36 ft. broad. The central part of the pier will be for first class passengers only. The system of the ticket office, entrance and exit will be carried out on much the same lines as at present, excepting, of course, that the accommodation will be very much better. Besides a waiting compound surrounded by seats, where there will be standing room for 100 persons, there will be a waiting room for ladies. From the waiting compound a gate leads to another compound, as wide as the middle pier, upon which the gangways of steamers, steamers on either side, will be lowered. Accommodation for second and third class passengers will be on the outer projections. At each of the 3rd-class compounds there will be standing room for 230 persons; and there will be standing room for 100 persons at each of the 2nd-class compounds. The 3rd-class exit will be provided with turnstiles to prevent undue crushing. Second and 3rd-class passengers will, as at present, have to descend a flight of steps to board the ferry. There will also be outer steps on the pier at either side. The pier will be built of wood piles and plank flooring. The upper-work, strengthened by iron pillars, will be of wood also. On the street side there will be a bicycle shed and two little shops. Taking into consideration the ever-increasing traffic between Victoria City and the mainland the improvements will be timely and much appreciated.

A new 5-minute service is being arranged for, but this, naturally, will not be commenced till the demand justifies such a step. The "Star" Ferry Co. have now four vessels, the *Northern Star*, *Southern Star*, *Polar Star*, and, lastly, the *Morning Star*. The *Morning Star*, recently completed by the Hongkong & Whampoa Dock Co., is very much the same as her predecessors, excepting that she has triple-expansion instead of compound

engines. A new "Star" ferry-boat, a double-ended craft like the rest, is now in course of construction at the Kowloon Docks. Her hull has been completed, and beds already laid to receive the engines. When this craft is ready for service the Company intend to run boat on Saturdays until the half hour after midnight. If there is a sufficient demand they will do likewise on other days. In the still somewhat distant future, when the 5-minute service is running in daytime, it is probable that there will be a 15-minute service, instead of the present 30-minute service, at night. The Company did not thoroughly repair the Hongkong landing after the recent fire because it will shortly have to be pulled down to make room for the pier.

THE S.S. "SHANGHAI."

LAUNCH OF THE LARGEST HONGKONG-BUILT VESSEL.

The largest vessel ever built in this Colony was launched by Lady Goodman at the Kowloon Docks on the 14th instant. She was the river steamer *Shanghai*, constructed to the order of the China Navigation Co., Ltd. for the Lower Yangtze trade. A launch belonging to the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. conveyed the guests across the harbour from the Hongkong side at eight. This was an early hour, but when fixing the time for the launching the state of the tide had to be considered. In approaching the Docks, the hull of the steamer was conspicuous. She is a typical river steamer with three spacious passenger decks. Her upperworks outside were painted with yellow ochre priming, while the bottom as high as the water-line showed red lead colour. A long string of hunting floated over the new craft, flags of the Hongkong & Whampoa Dock Co., and the China Navigation Co. being most prominent. A platform was rigged in front of the bow, and it was from here that Lady Goodman cut the vessel adrift. Included among those present on the platform were Sir W. M. and Lady Goodman, Mr. D. R. Law, Miss Law, Mr. Butterworth, Mr. and Mrs. Fullerton, Hon. W. J. Gresson, Mr. Nicholson, Dr. Steadman, Hon. and Mrs. Gershom Stewart, Mr. Cruickshank, Mr. Whittall, Paymaster A. Wilson, R.N., Mr. and Mrs. Webb, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Dixon, Mr. and Mrs. Ramsay, Capt. and Mrs. Outerbridge, Mr. C. C. Yates, Lieut.-Colonel Bunny, Hon. and Mrs. P. N. H. Jones, Mr. T. F. Hough, Mr. D. Wood, Sr. M. Marti, Sr. R. Basa, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Caldwell, Sr. J. J. and Mrs. Leiria, Mr. D. Macdonald, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Danby, Mr. and Mrs. Grimble, Mr. and Mrs. Schubart, Major Simmons, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Wendt, Mr. W. Melchers, and a large number of B. & S. staff.

Mr. W. B. Dixon presented Lady Goodman with a gold bracelet with a ring attached; and then Mr. D. R. Law presented Lady Goodman with a handsome bouquet of flowers in a silver holder.

When all was ready Lady Goodman took the mallet and gave the cutter two smart taps. The rope was severed, the dog shores thereby released, and the vessel rapidly gathered headway in her descent. Lady Goodman lost no time in catching hold of the bottle of champagne which she threw against the bow with sufficient force to make the baptism ceremony a success. Continuous cheering and hat waving from the Europeans was accompanied by the usual cracker firing of the Chinese. On the call of Mr. Dixon three cheers and a "tiger" were given for Lady Goodman. The company then adjourned to the Dock reception room.

When all were comfortably seated and glasses filled Mr. Dixon said that they had gathered to drink success to the fine ship they had just seen so successfully launched. She was not, indeed, a particularly big ship, but she was a very fine vessel. He proposed success to the *Shanghai* and wished her a long and prosperous life.

Sir W. M. GOODMAN said he would like to say one word to thank Mr. Dixon for the honour he had done to his wife in asking her to be there that morning; it was a very great pleasure both to himself and to his wife (applause).

Mr. LAW, after thanking the company present for having responded so heartily to the toast,

said that the China Navigation Co. had every intention of being as progressive in the future as it has been in the past. They were "ready, aye ready" to build all the vessels that might be required to cope with the development of the China Coast and Riverine trade, and if the shipowners are supported by their Government, as other countries supported their nationals in the struggle for supremacy, there was little fear of the British flag disappearing in that quarter of the world. He would like to ask what made nations great and maintained them in the fore rank of power and influence? Was it the stability of their great national institutions, or their navies and armies, of which they were all so justly proud? Directly, yes; but what made these possible? Commerce! Take away commerce and all greatness (except moral greatness of which no man could rob them) would depart as Samson's strength did when he was shorn of his locks by the Philistine woman. Everything depended on commerce. It was commerce that supplied the wherewithal to make the wheels of their vast national existence go round, and the sooner their Central and Local Governments, their administrators and officials realized this and worked with them for the common end of encouraging and building up commercial enterprise the better it would be for them as nations as well as individuals. He wished to say a few words on the importance of the event they had just participated in. He thought it marked another milestone in the successful development of that great seaport. A few years ago the Dock Co. would have hesitated to undertake the construction of such a vessel as they had just seen so successfully launched by Lady Goodman. To-day they hungered after such orders and successfully competed, not only with Eastern builders, but even with experienced builders in the old country, and this despite the fact that all material had to be imported. He thought this spoke volumes for the sagacity and foresight of those who constituted this a free port. He firmly believed there was no port in the East that could ever successfully compete with them, and that the future of Hongkong as a great shipbuilding centre was assured beyond the shadow of a doubt. It was only a question of time when they would import ore from the mainland, have their own smelting works and produce within their own borders the frames plates and every other item that went to make the sum total of a steamer. He congratulated Mr. Dixon and his staff on the most excellent work they produced. Their superintendents Mr. Ramsay and Captain Outerbridge, had told him that their work could not be equalled, or at any rate could not be surpassed by any builder in any part of the world, and with this reputation and the natural advantages that the port possessed, he thought the shareholders in the Dock Co. might very well congratulate themselves on the possession of as valuable an asset as any in the Colony. Mr. Law proposed the health of Mr. Dixon, the manager of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., and the other members of the foreign staff, particularly Mr. Mitchell, who had had so much to do with the construction of the *Shanghai*. He was sure they all wished continued prosperity to the Company. (Applause).

Mr. DIXON thanked Mr. Law for his remarks. He was quite sure all at the Docks desired to produce a first-rate article. There was one thing that caused them a little difficulty. All the materials they used were overlaid with charges for freight, etc., and this amounted to a considerable sum of money. It amounted really to a profit, or what might be taken as a profit. But when they came to the question of labour, there they had the pull. In the estimation of his assistant, Mr. Wilson, now at home, it took two Chinamen to do the work of one Englishman. When he came to Hongkong first Mr. Wilson told him that was the case, but he (Mr. Dixon) ridiculed the idea—in fact, he said that he rather ruffled Mr. Wilson's feelings over the subject. Now, however, he did not think that Mr. Wilson was far wrong. Two Chinamen would work for one day for two dollars, which equalled about 3/9, six times 3/9 equalled about 23s. One could not get English fitters, engineers, etc., to work for that money per week, so that their pull came in the labour. There was however a great difficulty in keeping down the number of Chinamen who desired to

get employment in the Docks. It was wonderful the number of Chinamen who tried to get in, but Mr Kerr and Mr. Lumsden looked after that; keeping down the number of men was the only way they could make a profit.

Mr. R. MITCHELL could only say that he and the staff of the Kowloon Dock were very pleased to see them that morning. He thanked Lady Goodman for successfully launching the *Shanghai*. Mr. Dixon and all the staff of the Dock Co. took a particular interest in putting a good class of work into the *Shanghai* and doing the work quickly. Even the Chinese "No. 1" men and some of the foremen had been working 18 hours a day, so as to carry on the work with greater despatch. He thanked them again for their attendance at the Kowloon Dock. (Applause.)

Mr. DIXON called upon Mr. A. R. Lowe to propose the toast of "the Ladies."

After this was responded to, the company dispersed.

The *Shanghai* has a deadweight capacity of about 1,900 tons on a draft of 11 ft. 9 in. Her length between perpendiculars is 310 feet; breadth, moulded, 46 feet; depth moulded, 14 ft. 3 in. She has a double cellular bottom. She will have two sets of triple expansion surface condensing engines, the cylinders of which are 14½ in. 24 in. and 39½ in. in diameter respectively; the length of stroke is 30 in. The two boilers are single ended, of mild steel; mean diameter, 15 ft.; length, 11 ft. 6 in.; working pressure, 190 pounds. She will be fitted throughout with electricity. Her speed, when fully laden, will be 11½ knots. Work putting in the engines can now be proceeded with rapidly—that is, of course, as soon as the vessel is brought under the sheerlegs.

TRADE IN MAY.

It appears from the Board of Trade returns that with regard to the details of our trade with the Far East there was last month a very considerable decrease in the export of cotton yarn and twist to China, Japan, and the Straits Settlements, the figures for China being 16,000 lbs., against 466,100 lbs., and for Japan 1,500 lbs., against 54,600 lbs. last year. For the five months also there is a large shrinkage all round. Taking the total trade in all kinds of piece goods, shrinkages are shown by China, Japan, the Philippine Islands and the Straits Settlements, the Dutch East Indies alone showing any increase. For the five months there is again a shrinkage all round, none of the countries mentioned showing increases. The export of linen manufactures to the Philippine Islands shows a satisfactory increase for the month, but there is still a considerable fall in the figures for the longer period. The shipments of woollen tissues to China show an increase for both periods, but a decrease for Japan. In worsted tissues the same remarks apply. In regard to metals there was a falling-off in the quantity of mixed and yellow metal shipped to China both for the month and five months, whereas the value of textile machinery and millwork sent to both China and Japan shows satisfactory increases. Larger quantities of old iron and steel for re-manufacture were shipped to China during both periods, whilst that country also took an increased quantity of lead. The quantity of lead exported to Japan shows a decrease for both periods. Turning to imports we find that a much larger quantity of tea came from China last month, the figures being 241,740 lbs., against 47,362 lbs. last year; for the five months also there is a considerable increase, the figures being 5,152,108 lbs. against 3,966,818 lbs. last year. Silk shipments from China show good increases both for the month and five months, but there were none from Japan. Shipments of hemp from the Philippine Islands were larger for the month by some 4,700 tons, and for the longer period by some 13,000 tons. From the Straits Settlements increased quantities of tin were shipped during both periods.

Both Sir Matthew Nathan and his A.D.C. are (says the *Singapore Free Press*) polo players and keen sportsmen generally—facts which will be appreciated in Hongkong, and the journal suggests that if time allows, the Singapore Polo Club might arrange a short game during the stay of the steamer.

THE LATE MR. DORABJEE NOWROJEE.

SUGGESTED MEMORIAL FUND.

Addressing the large concourse of mourners at the Parsee Club on Saturday afternoon, after the "third day" ceremonies, Mr. H. N. Mody said (in part) that they all knew the genial and kindly character of Mr. Dorabjee Nowrojee—his ready sympathy with all classes, how he could be old with the old and young with the young, his liberal and unostentatious charity. Of him it could be truly said that his left hand knew not what his right hand did. They knew how the less fortunate members of their community could always rely on his assistance, not only in relieving their pressing necessities, but in finding employment for those requiring it, while his friendly counsel and advice were always at their disposal. Nor did he confine his acts of charity to the Parsee community alone, but he was liberal to all alike whatever their creed or nationality. He was, as they knew, a very liberal contributor to the charity funds of their own "Anjuman," of which he was one of the trustees, and it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to find anyone to worthily fill his place. His (Mr. Mody's) object in addressing them was to propose that they should that day open a fund in connection with their own "Anjuman," which should at once be a tribute of respect to their lamented benefactor and should keep his memory green in future generations. The fund should be called the "Dorabjee Nowrojee Fund." He (Mr. Mody) would have much pleasure in subscribing, and he commended it to their liberal consideration.

ORPHEUM COMEDY CO.

The Orphenm Comedy Co. on the 13th inst. made their second appearance at the City Hall. Owing to the heat the audience was not so large as the performance justified, but theatrical companies visiting Hongkong in summer can hardly expect "bumper" houses. After an overture Miss Hettie Fuller sang with a sweet voice of remarkably high register, and considerable expression. Mr. Jim Morris, figuring on the programme as a "buck and wing" dancer, gave a coon song, and was called back. Miss Lyla Thompson rendered "My Last Night Out," a rollicking song with which, having a slight cold, she could not do herself full justice. Mr. G. Victor Loydall was much appreciated as a comic songster (he is really funny); and Miss Bishop, who possesses an agreeable voice, was admirable in a chorus *du temps jadis*. "A Piccadilly Johnny with a little glass eye," which was well received. Tim Howard, the funny little man, did complete justice to his title, his "Bowery Boy" and whistling song being amongst the best items on the programme. Messrs. Rockley and Morris concluded the first part with the topical duet "Did you speak?" As an encore they gave a very good burlesque boxing act.

In the second part Miss Lyla Thompson sang "Cowrie," and part of the audience joined in the chorus. Mr. Alf. Rockley was very good in a "squib" parody on "Good old summer time." Miss Hettie Fuller, as a Spanish Senora, gave a very good dancing exhibition. Mr. Leonard Nelson, with a capital "make-up," rendered a somewhat tedious comic song entitled "Poor, Proud and Particular," for which he was encored. Miss Violet Bishop rendered "Skylark" in good style, but she created a far better impression with her serio-comic song in the first part. A really good performance, deserving great praise and much support, terminated with "Patsey's Manœuvres," an original farce by Miss Helen Collins and G. Victor Loydall.

There are now eleven men in custody at Shanghai charged with implication in the recent murder of an Indian "informer" there. This man, it may be remembered, gave information to a Taotai about some of his associates who were "wanted." In the night, a gang of them went to his house, which is quite close to the race-course, and riddled him with bullets. One weapon secured by the detectives is a modern ten-firer Mauser.

R. A. O. B.

On the 9th instant the members of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes entertained their friends to a very enjoyable smoking concert in their Club Rooms in Queen's Road. Mr. J. H. Oxberry, president, was in the chair, and was supported by Mr. Goodhall, vice-president; while Mr. J. J. Blake, secretary, saw after the comfort of the visitors and the general arrangements. A capital programme, arranged by Mr. Walstow, was submitted, and so good was the entertainment that everyone felt sorry when it had to be brought to a close at midnight. Mr. MacLean acted as pianist with his accustomed ability and was untiring in his efforts. Among the features of the evening were Mr. Bacon's "The Deathless Army," Mr. Oxberry's "The Carnival," Mr. Rogers's "Every Bullet"; a trio, "Tell me, gentle shepherd," by Messrs. Bacon, Harris and Walstow; a recitation entitled "Mother Hubbard," by Mr. Goldenburg; banjo solos by Mr. McGrann, and mandoline solos by Mr. Allwork. There were plenty of comic songs among those sung. In this line Mr. Evans and Mr. Walstow distinguished themselves and both got encores. Among others who contributed to the harmony were Mr. Harris (baritone), who sang finely the ballad "Because I love you"; Mr. Cooper, cester song "Liza Johnson"; Mr. Purser, gramophone selections; Mr. Laing, comic song, "Oh, what a difference"; and Mr. Neal, concertina solos. At the conclusion of the concert Mr. Oxberry made a few remarks anent the condition of the club and its aims. When it started, he said, there were only some 16 members; now there were about 130. They wanted still more, and he urged all those present who were not Buffaloes to join at once. The toast of "The Order" was drunk with honours. Afterwards the visitors were toasted by Mr. Goodhall, Mr. Poole responding. "God save the King" brought the concert to a close.

PIRACY.

We seem to have heard more about piracy within the past few days than we have done for months. The captain of the s.s. *Mee Foo*, it will be remembered, recently reported having passed three pirate junks off Kupchi Point, about 25 miles from Breaker Point. Capt. Ellis, of the Naval launch *Alexandra*, was attacked by pirates in the waters of Namki Island, and the most recent case of all happened in the waters of this Colony. On the 6th inst. a gang of pirates held up a junk moored off Lantau Island. They then attacked another boat, but one of the occupants of this escaped and reported the matter to the Taiaro Police Station. P. Sergt. Floyd, in charge of the local force of Indian police, hurried to the scene, and four of the pirates were captured. One of the Indian constables, Bhan Singh by name, received a slight scalp wound while taking part in the arrest. The case has been remanded till the 14th inst.

COREAN OFFICIAL AT HONGKONG.

Considerable interest was evinced in Hongkong yesterday in the appearance of a Korean official, who was wearing the native Court dress. This gentleman is Mr. Lau Ping-koon, Assistant Grand Secretary of Korea. Speaking to a *Daily Press* representative, through a Mandarin interpreter, he explained that he was on his way from Fokkien Province to Canton and Honam on a mission for his Government. This would be his second visit to Canton.

A description of Mr. Lau Ping-koon's dress will be interesting. To begin with; he wore a black hat which we have heard variously described as "a sort of folded serviette," and as a cross between a Roman Catholic priest's baretta and a three-story pagoda. His long coat, opening in the front, was of blue silk lined with red. He wore a white scarf; and a piece of cord was tied about his waist. His boots were typically Chinese, excepting that the soles of them were rather thicker than is usual. The costume, altogether, was just as curious to the Chinaman as to the European.

Mr. Lau Ping-koon was very agreeable in manner. In spite of his nails being rather long—long nails are in fashion at Corea—he shook hands in European style.

RAISING A WHARF.

For some time past that end of the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co.'s wharf next the Praya has been gradually subsiding, due doubtless to the heavy buildings erected inside the gate. When the wharf sank no less than five inches it was thought advisable to take measures to stop the subsidence, especially as the iron piers and stanchions were beginning to show signs of giving way under the strain put upon them. Yesterday was the day fixed for carrying out the raising operations. A staging was erected underneath from which to proceed with the work and everything was got ready for a start as soon as the bustle attendant on the departure of the *Heungshan* at noon should have passed off. The gates were then shut and casual visitors to the pier had to make use of a temporary bamboo bridge leading from the Praya at the side of the entrance. The power employed for hoisting the end of the wharf was hydraulic. When the apparatus once set to work the huge bulk, weighing something like 80 tons, was forced slowly up and back into its original position. Owing to the heavy superstructure, the operation was rendered more difficult as there was a danger of the gate-wall collapsing when the base was being pushed upwards. Fortunately there was no mishap, and the work was carried out quite successfully. A large crowd of Chinese assembled to witness the unusual spectacle. As is usual with them under such circumstances, they would persist in getting close up to the job to have a "look-see" heedless of the possible fall of the wall; and it was only with difficulty that they could be kept outside the zone of danger. Mr. D. Macdonald, consulting engineer, supervised the operation.

THE BISHOP OF MACAO.

PASTORAL VISIT TO SINGAPORE.

Recently His Lordship D. João Paulino d'Azevedo e Castro, the Bishop of Macao, journeyed down to Hongkong by the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Company's s.s. *Heungshan* en route for Singapore and Malacca on a month's pastoral visit. His Lordship was accompanied to the Macao wharf by all the leading officials, including His Excellency the Governor, Sr. de Queiroz Montenegro; Sr. Alfredo Lello, Colonial Secretary; Sr. Alves Branco, Harbour Master; Sr. Guedes, Captain Superintendent of Police; the Captain and Officers of the gunboat *Diu*; Major Santa Anna, Inspector of the Military Forces; Inspector da Fazenda, and the Attorney-General. The students of St. Joseph's College to the number of about eighty also went aboard the *Heungshan* and paid their obeisances to the party and kissed the Bishop's hand before the steamer left. Those who accompany his Lordship to Singapore are Father A. Gomes, Father Nunes, Father Arkwright, and Sr. João Lima; while there accompanied him as far as Hongkong O. Sr. Deão Illydeo de Gouveia, Father Manuel M. Alves, and Sr. Braganca. His Lordship will leave for Singapore by the German mail steamer the *Seydlitz* to-day. The ceremony of bidding *au revoir* to the reverend prelate at the Macao wharf was most impressive, and all the gubernatorial party were dressed in full-dress uniforms and medals. At Hongkong the Bishop and his suite were met by several reverend Fathers on the pier and escorted to the house of His Lordship Bishop Piazzoli. On the voyage down the comfort of the party was well looked after by the captain and chief officer of the *Heungshan*. Last night the members of the Catholic Union met at their Club-house in Glenealy to welcome his Lordship and bid him God-speed on his voyage.

The clock in the office of the *Japan Daily Mail* has been stolen for the third time. Our contemporary seems much distressed about it, and devotes more than half a column to the virtues of this old servant, which has been going since 1872. We hope it hasn't gone for good.

A BUNCH OF BOOKS.

The Watchers. By A. E. W. Mason. London: T. Fisher Unwin.

It is so seldom (and here the reviewer speaks with becoming deference to the great army of fiction producers) that any really good thing comes with the modern batch of novels, that the temptation to exaggeration of praise in the case of the merely mediocre is ever present. The "so-so" kind are as kindly dealt with as is consistent with truth—review truth. The "rather better" have to be praised. What remains but superlatives, then, for so peculiarly good a story as "The Watchers"? Of course Mr. Mason is far from being an unknown writer. Much previous good work had prepared us for "The Watchers," which is a very stirring story of Cornwall a hundred and fifty years ago, with pirates as real as poor Stevenson's, and diction well-nigh (for it were heresy to omit some qualification) as musical and clear-cut as any Stevensonian specimen. No reader, however fully fared on novel diet, will be able to lose interest in the thread of "Stephen Berkeley's" tale, although many will guess, before the final chapter is turned, how it was that the beautiful Helen came to commit suicide, and to laugh unconscious of it the next day. To all but that enlightened and elect few who "can't stand Dickens," &c., this novel is recommended with confidence.

As We Forgive Them. By William Le Queux. London: George Bell & Sons.

ANOTHER "Queuxotic" novel, of the absorbing interest and suspense of mystery which novel-readers have learned to look for from this prolific writer. Such as do not mind a few improbabilities, who have no eye for occasional inartistic turns of expression, and to whom the incidental banality causes no feeling of distaste, will revel in this as in past stories from the same pen. A mysterious pilgrimage for a mysterious purpose, which turns out to be the discovery of a Monte Cristo treasure hidden in a mysterious cave, the secret guarded by a mysterious pack of cards, and the searchers in constant peril of unscrupulous people who "smile mysteriously" and turn out honest at the last—who could resist such a combination, especially when there is a healthy and charming "love interest" to inspire sympathy, and a feeling of satisfaction when the concluding pages show the happy finish? Not the reader who wants a thrilling story straightly told, and that is what "As We Forgive Them" really is.

The Gage of Red and White. By GRAHAM HOPE. London and Bombay: George Bell & Sons.

THIS is an entertaining historical novel dealing with the Court life of France in the days when Calais was yet an English fortress. The central figure is Duc d'Aumale, the great soldier and chivalrous knight and unsuccessful Statesman. Romantic, and written in a manner wholly fascinating, "The Gage of Red and White" is a book as readable as it is historically valuable.

Rulers of Kings. By GERTRUDE ATHERTON. London: Macmillan & Co., Ltd.

THIS authoress always does take as a basis for her fictional writings the assumption that "United Statesians" (so she calls them) are a distinctly superior kind of being as compared with any other of the older nations, and more especially that the American women no less than their countrymen are also imbued with all the high qualities that go to make up this transcendental superiority. It must be admitted, however, that apart from this not altogether desirable idiosyncrasy, she writes fascinatingly, draws her characters well, and groups them effectively. So much can certainly be said with respect to *Rulers of Kings*. The story concerns a young fellow who is brought up in the country in indifferent living circumstances and has concealed from him the fact that his father is a multi-millionaire financier of New York, who has adopted this method of up-bringing so that his son may learn to know what adversity means before being called upon to take up the business of which he is destined to be the head. The method employed appears to

be a success, for young Fessenden Abbott prospers all right and ends up by marrying the daughter of an Emperor. The book is fanciful, light and amusing, though somewhat tame as regards its plot. Messrs. Kelly & Walsh have the work on sale.

Nature's Comedian. By W. E. NORRIS. London and Bombay: Longmans, Green & Co.

HAROLD DUNVILLE is the son of a country cleric who is outcast from his family because he commits the heinous offence of going upon the stage, and it is only after his parents' death that he is permitted as a prodigal son to re-enter the fold. His brother, also a clergyman, is also secretly enamoured of the stage, and he writes a play and gets Harold to produce it as his own, with immense success. Meanwhile the brilliant young actor is disappointed in love, and in a sort of frenzy of disappointment becomes engaged to one of the ladies of his company. But the marriage never takes place, for Harold, realising in time that he has made a mistake and mortgaged his happiness and career in a spirit of chagrin, sacrifices his life in an attempt to save a chorus girl from a burning theatre.

MR. NICOLLE'S APPOINTMENT.

The despatch from the Secretary of State which we (*Times of Ceylon*) published recently is an interesting document, conveying as it does definitive confirmation of the statement made by us some time ago that Mr. Nicolle was about to be appointed Treasurer of the Colony and giving explanations how the rights of the Ceylon Civil Service were to be conserved in spite of that appointment. Hitherto the Treasury has been the one "plum" of the Service, carrying with it a seat in the Executive Council, and the Auditor-Generalship has usually been given to some nominee of the Secretary of State. Mr. F. R. Ellis, however, now holds the latter appointment, so Mr. Lyttelton thinks he is entitled to put his own nominee in the other. It was just as well, however, that the Secretary of State should be made acquainted with the feeling prevalent in Ceylon when this appointment was first announced by us. The result is that an equitable arrangement has been arrived at, for in Mr. F. R. Ellis's retirement Mr. Nicolle is transferred to the Auditor-Generalship, it is apparently intended that the senior Civil Servant shall become Treasurer, and that that post shall be made superior to that of Auditor-General, so that Government may in all questions of expenditure have the benefit of the advice and assistance of the most experienced and able officer of the local Service. This seems an excellent arrangement, involving as it does the necessary reduction in importance of the post of Auditor-General, which will in the future be confined to financial experts entrusted with all matters of detail. This arrangement seems satisfactory in all respects and will meet with general approval. It is sincerely to be trusted, however, that future Colonial Secretaries will pay more regard to the financial experience and fitness of the nominees they appoint to fill the post of Auditor-General than to considerations based on patronage and expediency. In Mr. Nicolle, our new Treasurer, we seem to have one who has had considerable experience of Government accounts, and we have no doubt he will prove a valuable and efficient officer of Government.

Major Sir Matthew Nathan, R.E., K.C.M.G., the new Governor of Hongkong, entertained a number of persons connected with the Far East at the Army and Navy Club on 6th ult. Amongst those present were Mr. Lucas, C.B., of the Colonial Office, Sir Cecil Clementi Smith, Sir Alfred Dent, Mr. W. Keswick, M.P., General Sir William Gascoigne, Sir Thomas Jackson, and Mr. T. H. Whitehead. It will perhaps be of interest to note, says the *L. & C. Express* that came yesterday, that Mr. W. Arbuthnot Leslie, who goes out as A.D.C. to His Excellency, is the grandson of a former partner in Dent and Co., who retired during the flourishing days before 1866. Both His Excellency and his A.D.C. are, we hear, polo players and keen sportsmen generally—facts which we are sure will be appreciated in Hongkong.

SPORT AND PASTIME.

(Daily Press, 9th July.)

What attracts the attention of Hongkong sportsmen, more than anything else at the present moment, is the forthcoming Gymkhana Club meeting, to be held most probably on the 30th inst. As you mentioned in the *Daily Press* a few days ago, this will be the second meeting of the Club since its inauguration on the 1st March last. It was then suggested to hold races during the off season once a month from April to October, with a possible intermission during July and August. The number of Gymkhana meetings to be held each season is not to exceed five.

The new building at the Race Course, which, it will be remembered, was made ready in a makeshift sort of way for the February meeting, is now permanently completed, and very smart it looks. A part of the new concrete work in the members' compound has been done.

It would not be safe to venture an opinion as to what ponies will "come out" next meeting, and no entries are as yet to hand. Presumably the events will be much the same as at the first meeting, but nothing has yet been definitely arranged. On the last occasion (for mnemonic refreshment) Mr. W. G. Clarke's *Standard*, with Mr. Clarke up, came in in the Grantham Cup; Mr. John Peel's *Ca Canny*, Mr. Johnstone up, was first in the East Point Cup; Mr. J. Lewis's *Starling*, ridden by Mr. Alderton, won the "Ichiban" Cup, a hurdle race; Mr. H. J. Gedge's *Punch*, with Mr. Gresson up, won the polo pony scurry; Mr. Johnstone brought Mr. John Peel's *Ca Canny* home in the Gymkhana Club Challenge Cup; and Mr. G. H. Edwards's *Sylph Rose*, ridden by Mr. Clarke, won the "Primrose" Cup. Some of these horses should win again, even with extra weights.

Talking about golf, by the way, a remarkable incident occurred at Taiping, Perak, the other day. Two men drove off, and each ball disappeared into a ditch. Upon arriving at the spot the players found that the second ball had rolled down the bank and actually lodged on top of the other ball! What ought to be done in that case?

The Water Polo Association meeting, greatly delayed by the temporary absence from the Colony of Mr. A. Humphreys, the secretary, is to be held on Wednesday next. A Volunteer team, comprised chiefly, if not absolutely, of V.R.C. members, won the Shield last year, beating the V.R.C.

Details regarding the amalgamation of the Hongkong Boat Club with the Royal Hongkong Yacht Club are still under discussion. During the past week tubbing has been in progress at the Boat Club. A couple of crews have been out regularly. The membership of the Boat Club is increasing.

Attendance at the V.R.C. of late has been very large indeed. A good scratch water polo game was played on Wednesday. With reference to the Aquatic Carnival, to be held on Saturday, the 23rd instant, some of the events have been changed. The more indifferent swimmers fought shy of the four-length event, so the list of entries was short. This race has now been scratched, and a two-lengths race substituted. The throwing (water polo ball) contest also, has been abandoned, a plunging contest taking its place. The Club beat the R.A. at water polo last evening by five goals to two.

I overheard a rather amusing conversation in the V.R.C. bar-room the other day. One man said he thought of scratching his name from the two lengths competition. "For goodness sake don't," said a comrade. "Why, what has that got to do with you?" answered the other. "Well, I will tell you. Once upon a time a Minister in Persia begged his sovereign to spare the life of a subject condemned to death. 'If that man were killed,' the Minister said, 'I would be the ugliest man in the country'—and if you," continued the witty raconteur, "scratch your name from that race, I shall come in last."

The Golf Club has had an exceedingly slack week. Things, however, promise to revive during the next few days. Play in connection with the "Drew" Cup is still in progress. The committee meeting has not yet decided what is to be done about the "Ross" Cup, in which the best card was not quite in order. This month's Captain's Cup Competition will be played off Saturday to Monday.

Another story worth telling, though I cannot vouch for the truth of it, is that a very long V.R.C. man invited several short ones to sign a suggestion in the Suggestion Book, not revealing what he had written till after they had done so. When he removed his hand imagine the anger of the little men when they read as follows: "We beg to suggest that the shower bath fixing be raised higher so that we shall not knock our heads against it."

Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C., has knocked Mr. R. H. Newborn out in the first round of the chess competition for the championship of the Colony. The four who "died" in the first round, which is now completed, were Messrs. Moses, Newborn, Swaby and Dastur. The drawing for the second round, the semi-final, in fact, has already taken place, and the games are to be played off before the end of the month. The result of the drawing is as follows:—

Pollock v. Kemp.
Falloon v. Danenberg.

I see by yesterday's paper that the Hongkong Volunteer Corps give a promenade concert on their Parade Ground on Saturday, the 30th inst. I understand that the entertainment will be much the same as last year. The Volunteers will be in uniform, and the accompaniments will be played by a band. The programme has not yet been arranged.

The site of the old H.K.C.C. pavilion has been turfed over, and looks very fresh, like the rest of the field, after the rain. A piece of railing, of course, will have to be put in at that place. It is to be sincerely hoped that the comforts of the new pavilion will be available in time for the Cricket Season.

Certain Y.M.C.A. members as usual go out twice a week in a launch for swimming exercise. That little bay at Stonecutters' Island seems to be the favourite spot. The Y.M.C.A. Physical Department Committee consists of Messrs. W. Armstrong, C. R. S. Cooper, S. R. Moore, T. E. Pearce, and R. S. Piercy.

The Civil Service Cricket Club hold their annual meeting in about a month's time, when arrangements will be made for the Cricket Season. At present two tennis courts are kept going daily. Another pastime is quoits. The Club is spending money improving the ground.

An Australian exchange quotes some noteworthy scores recently made in English county cricket. Playing for Yorkshire against Surrey, F. S. Jackson made 158 and W. Rhodes 107. J. T. Tyldesley compiled 210 for Lancashire against Somerset. A. E. Knight (Leicestershire) scored 140 at the expense of the London County Club's bowlers. C. B. Fry, the Sussex champion, made no less than 226 in an innings against Derbyshire. W. G. Quaife, playing for Warwickshire against Essex, made 178 not out. Seymour performed brilliantly for Kent, scoring 108 and 136 not out against Worcestershire.

OMPAX.

According to a recent report by the Austro-Hungarian Consul at Bangkok, quoted by the *Moniteur Officiel du Commerce*, there is a good opening for electrical apparatus in Siam. The Siam Electricity Company and the railways are the principal buyers. The value of the electrical apparatus imported during 1902 was 169,755 ticals (17 ticals=1£), distributed as follows:—Germany, 63,619 ticals; United Kingdom, 54,517 ticals; North America, 39,689 ticals; Other countries, 2,262 ticals. The value of the apparatus imported via Singapore was 9,668 ticals. There is a demand for artistic electric lamps.

LOCAL SPORT.

RACING.

Starling, formerly owned by Mr. J. Lewis, now the property of a syndicate, is training for the Gymkhana meeting, and making some very good times. Mr. Alderton, it will be remembered, brought *Starling* home in the hurdle race at the last Gymkhana. Mr. John Peel's *Glenburn* is also doing very well. It is the opinion of many that Jardine's stable should carry off most of the honours with *Ca Canny*, the winner of the East Point Cup and Gymkhana Club Challenge Cup at the last meeting, and *Desert King*, the noted pony which won races at Shanghai. A few days ago Mr. Inglis's *Eclipse* did the mile in 2 min. 16 secs., the last quarter in 32 secs. Mr. H. S. Seth's *Dormouse* has also been out lately.

WATER POLO.

The Water Polo Association invites entries for the forthcoming shield competition. Teams desirous of entering are asked to send a representative to the meeting to be held at the V.R.C. premises, Kowloon, on the 13th inst. at 6 p.m. sharp.

THE CRAIGENGOWER C.C.

The lawn tennis competition "Kowloon v. Hongkong," played at the Craigengower C.C. ground on the 9th instant, resulted in a victory for the former. A number of visitors, including ladies, witnessed the games, play at times receiving well-merited applause. After the contest was over Mrs. Braidwood gave away the prizes in connection with the 1902-3 and 1903-4 cricket seasons, and those of the 1903 tennis tournament.

Mr. Asger, secretary of the Club, explained to Mrs. Braidwood and the visitors that the conditions for winning outright the Challenge Shield, presented to the Club by Mr. E. R. Belilios, C.M.G., for the highest batting average, were that it should be won two years in succession, or any three seasons. Mr. R. Basa had won it three times (applause).

Mrs. Braidwood congratulated Mr. R. Basa as she presented to him the handsome silver shield. Mr. R. Basa won it in the 1898-9 season, Mr. M. E. Asger 1899-0, Mr. R. Basa 1900-1, Mr. J. P. Jordan 1901-2, and Mr. R. Basa 1902-3.

The prize for the highest bowling average during the 1902-3 season was then presented to Mr. M. H. Harteam. Mr. Harteam, really, was second to Mr. R. Pestonji, but Mr. Pestonji having won this prize on a previous occasion was excluded.

Mr. A. O. Brawn won the Belilios Challenge Cup for the 1903-4 season. The Cup was presented by Mr. Belilios for highest batting averages on the same terms as the Belilios Shield.

Mr. E. R. Hertton won the bowling prize for the 1903-4 season.

Mr. A. O. Brawn, with Mr. F. Rapp as runner-up, carried the scratch singles in the 1903 tennis tournament. The "doubles" was won by Messrs. A. O. Brawn and J. P. Jordan.

The prize-giving concluded, Mr. Asger thanked Mrs. Braidwood, saying that he hoped they would see her again at the Club. He presented her with a very pretty bouquet of flowers.

Mr. Braidwood, on behalf of his wife, thanked Mr. Asger. He was glad to see the Club so well to the fore. The cricket arrangements last season were mainly the work of their secretary, who was the principal mover in arranging the League. The Club certainly was not on top of the list, but he hoped that things would be different next year. They had received a photograph of the winning team, which they would have much pleasure in putting up in their pavilion.

Three cheers and a tiger for Mrs. Braidwood, and three more for the ladies, terminated the proceedings.

INTERPORT CRICKET.

The Hongkong Cricket Club, it will be remembered, recently invited the Singapore Cricket Club to send a Straits Settlements eleven to Hongkong next November, in connection with a proposed Interport contest. Singapore has accepted the invitation.

A similar invitation was sent also to Shanghai, but the Northern club's reply has not yet been received.

BOWLS.—C.S.C.C. v. K.B.G.C.

A contest at bowls, Civil Service C.C. v. the Kowloon Bowling Green Club, was played at Kowloon on the 9th inst. There were many spectators, with a very fair sprinkling of ladies. This being the first match between the two Clubs it created considerable interest. Although the Kowloon club won by a good margin, the Civil Service, who are practically beginners at the game, showed good style. With practice they ought to give a better account of themselves in the return match, which is to come off in about a month's time. J. W. Robertson, of the Kowloon Club, filled the place of Jas. Macdonald in the Civil Service team, the latter being absent. The games were as follows:—

NO. 1 RINK.

Kowloon	Civil Service
G. Edwards v. L. E. Brett	
T. Skinner M. McIvor	
J. Henderson J. Reidie	
A. Milroy (Skip) 21 Pts.	A. Gibson (Skip) 8 Pts.

NO. 2 RINK.

Kowloon	Civil Service
J. Gow v. D. Gourlay	
J. Walker R. Duncan	
D. Gow W. Brand	
J. Galt (Skip) 21 Pts.	T. W. Robertson (Skip) 6 Pts.

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

The following cards were returned at the monthly meeting held at Happy Valley from the 9th to the 11th July, 1904:—

Captain's Cup.

Mr. H. C. Reynolds	90	—	12	=	78
Mr. E. J. Grist	80	—	1	=	79
Mr. J. Rodgers	89	—	8	=	81
Mr. C. M. G. Burnie	83	—	0	=	83
Mr. C. W. May	86	—	3	=	83
Mr. T. S. Forrest	81	+	3	=	84
Mr. Douglas	91	—	6	=	85
Mr. R. T. Sayle	98	—	13	=	85

30 entries.

Pool.

Mr. H. C. Sandford	93	—	18	=	75
Mr. E. J. Grist	80	—	1	=	79
Mr. T. S. Forrest	77	+	3	=	80
Mr. J. Rodgers	89	—	8	=	81
Mr. C. M. G. Burnie	83	—	0	=	83
Mr. C. W. May	86	—	3	=	83
Mr. John Johnstone	88	—	5	=	83
Mr. T. C. Gray	97	—	14	=	83

30 entries.

It was really very hard lines for Mr. E. J. Grist. He was second in both events, failing to carry off one, the Captain's Cup, by one "pip."

WATER POLO ASSOCIATION.

The Hongkong Water Polo Association held their annual meeting on the 13th inst. at the Victoria Recreation Club Kowloon. There were present Messrs. T. Meek (chairman), H. C. Austen, A. E. Alves, R. C. Witchell, J. Hance, Sergt. Coomes (representing the R.G.A.), and Mr. A. Humphreys (secretary).

It was explained that the meeting had been called to make arrangements for this season's competition. The first question was to decide whether or not the competition was to be under League rules or a "knock-out."

Mr. WITCHELL thought that "knock-out" would be best. The League system took a very long time.

The CHAIRMAN said that he, also, was in favour of the "knock-out." Last season eight games were played practically after the Shield had been won. The competition lost interest somewhat when carried on in this way. It was even hard to get time-keepers; and then again many games last year had to be played at low water.

Mr. AUSTEN said that on behalf of the Club he thought the "knock-out" was preferable; it would incur less expense.

It was unanimously agreed that the contest be a "knock-out."

The CHAIRMAN: The next business is to decide when the entries close.

The SECRETARY proposed that the date be fixed at the 25th inst.; that would leave plenty of time to make arrangements for commencing play in the beginning of August.

This was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN said that after paying for last year's gold medals there was a balance of \$1. The meeting then closed.

HONGKONG.

H. E. Lao Ping Koon, Korean Assistant Grand Secretary, has been staying with Messrs Cawasjee, Pallanjee & Co.'s compradore at No. 22, Stanley Street, Hongkong.

The Straits Settlements Ladies' Dinner was given at the Hyde Park Hotel, London, on June 28th. Why not a Hongkong Ladies' Dinner there, too?

The visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum for the week ending 10th July, 1904, were 248 non-Chinese and 90 Chinese to the former, and 121 non-Chinese and 2,055 Chinese to the latter institution.

H. E. the Officer Administering the Government notifies in the *Gazette* the appointment of Arthur Frost Forster, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., as Deputy Health Officer of the Port, vice Robert Gibson.

Tytam Reservoir, which reached the overflowing point after the recent heavy rains, is now considerably down as a result of the full service of water being given throughout the city. The new reservoir below Tytam has not yet filled up.

The steam road-roller while at work on the 11th instant in Des Vœux Road opposite Watson's new building emitted heavy black smoke which would have brought the police down on the driver had it been a private and not a Government machine.

The return of communicable diseases in the Colony shows that during the week ended 9th inst. there were 24 cases of plague, one case of cholera (fatal), three cases of enteric fever (one fatal). One case of enteric was imported from Saigon by the French cruiser *Gueydon*.

Dr. L. Pereira Marques, of Macao, who was lately on a visit to Bangkok, was the recipient of an address and presentation of silver plate from Macao-born residents in Bangkok in recognition of his kindness to his countrymen. Dr. Marques left Bangkok on the 1st inst.

By special regulation made on the 5th inst. the Officer Administering the Government forbids foreign warships to examine or survey the shores or waters of the Colony; and requires in the case of foreign soldiers or sailors wishing to land that they must first obtain permission through their respective Consuls.

Mr. A. G. Ward gave an organ recital at St. John's Cathedral on the 5th inst. The building was comfortably filled. Some items on the programme were sung by Mr. W. Schmidt to Mr. Ward's accompaniment. A collection was made in aid of the Organ Fund. The auditors enjoyed the music.

Constable Rahmut Ali, an Indian, died at Kowloon of fatty degeneration of the heart on Sunday morning. He went on duty as usual on Saturday night, but shortly afterwards complained to another constable that he was feeling unwell. This man whistled for assistance and Constable Ali was brought to the station. He died while being carried to the Hospital next morning.

A correspondent suggests that when the new electric cars start running, only those ricksha coolies who are found to have perfect hearing should be licensed, as accidents will be frequent if the pullers cannot hear the warning bell of the car. It seems that some such restriction with regard to eyesight is enforced in Singapore. Certainly the ricksha coolies in Hongkong pay no heed to bicycle bells or overtaking horse carriages, but this is more likely to be due to disinclination to hear than to inability to hear.

It is so long since the concession was granted to the British syndicate to construct a railway from Canton to Kowloon that the Chinese authorities would appear to have forgotten all about it. In the Tientsin Chinese official organ it is reported that the Viceroy of Canton has obtained the necessary authority from Peking to raise a loan of 3,000,000 taels among the wealthy Chinese residents of Kwantung province, and it is gravely set forth that the money is to be expended on the following works:—1 To establish an official industrial institution at Canton. 2 To construct the Canton-Hongkong and Canton-Macao branch lines; 3 To establish Water Works at Canton. A humorist might ask what is to be done with the balance?

New Sanitary Inspectors appointed are Messrs. J. Williamson, D. McHardy, W. Cameron, W. Robertson, and A. Gordon.

MISCELLANEOUS.

An insurance office in Edinburgh had a surprise the other morning when they received from a lady a claim for damages for the loss of her false teeth, which she had accidentally dropped into the fire. The officials naturally inquired under what head she could claim for them, and she promptly replied, "As dining-room furniture."

The Chinese students at the Liège school, overcome by homesickness, were on strike when the last mail left. They refused to open their books or to listen to their instructors, and demanded to be sent back to China at once. While this state of affairs prevailed in the school, another batch of 33 students arrived in Belgium from China.

The "wave of indignation" described by a local contemporary as occasioned by the perverse views of Russian school histories is more natural than necessary. It is no new thing. Who has not heard of the American school book, and its un-English version of what our own histories record as the American rebellion? The absence of more such strong national bias would perhaps account for the existence of the type known (in our country) as the "Little Englander." We should hardly blame the Russian Minister of Public Instruction for desiring to bring up his rising generation as "Big Russia-landers."

Those who have business at the American Consulate-General (Shanghai) will learn with regret that Mr. A. H. White, who has filled the offices of Vice and Deputy Consul-General there for the past seven years, has resigned his post. Mr. White has been in the U. S. Consular service for over ten years, and during his connection with the Consulate here was for a time acting consul at Canton. He has always proved very obliging and genial and the new appointee, now on his way out, will have to be an excellent man to fit the place. Until the arrival of the new man Mr. G. A. Derby will be acting Deputy Consul-General. Mr. White has been appointed the agent of a New Jersey financial company, and being a lawyer, will in all probability practise his profession here in addition to the work of his new appointment. We (Shanghai *Mercury*) wish him all success.

The *Manila Cablenews* of the 21st ult. says that Rear-Admiral H. Cooper, commander-in-chief of the United States naval force on the Asiatic station, is ordered to turn over the command to Rear-Admiral Stirling and proceed home on waiting orders. The cause for this order from the navy department is the result of a report of a recent medical board of survey which recommended that Rear-Admiral Cooper be relieved from active service owing to physical disabilities. It is understood that Rear-Admiral Stirling who is now aboard the cruiser *New Orleans* at Chefoo, will be notified by Rear-Admiral Cooper to proceed to Hongkong, whence the command will be officially turned over to him; else he will be instructed to assume command per order, notifying the department at Washington of the acceptance of the office by him.

More details are to hand of the collision at Woosung on the night of the 30th ult. While the steam pilot-boat *A.M. Bisbee* was lying at anchor in her station at the Bell Buoy outside Woosung, she was run into by the British steamer *Commonwealth*, bound to Nagasaki. The *Bisbee* had her regulation lights burning brightly, and the night was a fine clear one; however the *Commonwealth* was seen bearing down on the Pilot boat, and before anything could be done to prevent it the huge steamer had crashed into the Pilot boat, striking her on the starboard bow and inflicting a good deal of damage. The force of the impact was so great that it started all the plates on the port side of the *Bisbee*; fortunately no one was injured by the shock. The *Commonwealth* was very little damaged and proceeded on her way to Nagasaki. The *Bisbee* was at once brought up to Shanghai and docked for repairs which are considerable and will take some time to complete. The *Bisbee* was built in Hongkong under the supervision of Messrs Carmichael and Clarke.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

The export to 2nd instant from Hankow as per Customs Returns stands thus:—

Season.	Exports.	Re-exports.
1904-1905.....	27,725,248 lbs.....	14,806,631 lbs.
1903-1904.....	17,690,702 ".....	10,038,075 "
1902-1903.....	20,521,901 ".....	10,130,578 "
	Total.	Total.
	1904-5.	1903-4

Via Shanghai,		
To Great Britain.....	5,315,497 lbs.	4,993,257 lbs.
.. United States &		
.. Canada.....	2,397,409 "	2,862,885 "
.. Continent.....	3,146,819 "	1,555,085 "
.. Russian Europe.....	89,295 "	11,282,981 "
.. do. via North.....		5,661,860 "
.. Shanghai.....	825,807 "	1,067,972 "
	Gr. Britain.	Continent.

Direct 1904/5.		
S.S. "Glenturret".....	1,938,477 lbs.	lbs.
S.S. "Shrewsbury".....	4,399,056 "	
S.S. "Prometheus".....	3,159,097 "	87,207 "
S.S. "Armenia".....		6,089,909 "
S.S. "Oceano".....	5,080,935 "	
S.S. "Ambria".....		5,423,096 "

SILK.

Canton, 2nd July, 1904. Third crop.—The favourable prospects surrounding this crop have been marred at the last moment by bad weather; and instead of the large yield expected, the output will be far under that of the previous year. The cost of mulberry leaves has risen from \$1 to \$5 per picul. Long-reels.—Since our last report, considerable activity has ruled in all sorts for Europe; but latterly transactions have been checked by advancing Exchange. The demand has run mostly on coarse sized from 16/18 to 30/40. The stock of Native Best 3me ordre has been cleared out; an average of \$710 have been paid for 11/13-13/15-14/18. Als. 9/11 and 10/12 have been in enquiry at full rates, but dealers are reluctant to contract for fine sizes with forward delivery. The market closes in a steady condition, with a steady stock much reduced, about 1,200 bales. From prices paid we quote:—Wing Cheong Sing 11/13 at \$870, King Sang 11/13-13/15 at \$815, Chee Chung Wo 11/13 and Kwong Wo Tai 11/13 at \$300, Yee Wo Cheong 18/22 at \$695, Yee Wo Lun 11/13-13/15-14/18 at \$710, Yee Wo Hing 30/40 at \$620. Short-reels.—There has been a little more enquiry in this grade from two or three quarters, and some lots have been placed on the basis of Tien Po Hang 14/16 at \$765. Reels seem to be out of demand, and American trade in general shows no animation. Waste Silk.—This has been very little dealt in during the last fortnight; but holders seem to be confident and are not ready to give way in prices.

Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons in their Silk Circular, dated Shanghai, 1st July, 1904, state:—The home markets are quiet. Gold Kiling is quoted in London at 10-9 and in Lyons at Fcs 30.25. Raw Silk.—The Tsatlee market is in a very unsettled condition. The cost of Gold Kiling has advanced 10 p.c. since the market opened. Country holders to-day are asking 550. Buyers in the market are willing to pay 540-545 but these prices will not tempt holders, who fear that sales here will send the market in the Interior up still further. Yellow Silk.—Small stocks of Mienyang and Mienchew have arrived and a fair amount of business has been done. Hand Filatures.—Further sales of Small Buffalo are reported but very little business doing. Steam Filatures.—Very little doing, a few sales of market chops are reported for the Continent but these prices however cannot be taken as a guide to the market. Waste Silk.—The market continues stagnant. Chinese speculators have been operating in Kading Frisonets 70.20.10 at Tls. 35-36. In Curlies we do not hear of any transactions; dealers are asking about Tls. 90. The home markets continue very depressed.

SUGAR.

Hongkong, 15th July.—There is no change in the prices as when last reported.

Shkeloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.70 to \$9.75 pcls.
Do. " 2, White.....	7.75 to 7.80 "
Do. " 1, Brown.....	6.05 to 6.10 "
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.90 to 5.95 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.55 to 8.60 "
Do. " 2, White.....	7.65 to 7.70 "
Do. " 1, Brown.....	5.95 to 6.00 "
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.75 to 5.80 "
Foochow Sugar Candy.....	12.80 to 12.85 "
Shkeloong ".....	10.90 to 10.95 "

No business has lately been done in the Kobe market in Hongkong Refined, the prices asked by sellers being above dealers' ideas. Osaka Refined have recently been selling at an advance on former sales, and there has been a moderate demand for beet sugar.

RICE.

Hongkong, 15th July.—The downward tendency continues large demands having come forward.

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.40 to \$2.55
" Round, good quality.....	3.80 to 3.95
" Long.....	4.00 to 4.15
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2.....	2.55 to 2.60
" Garden, " No. 1.....	3.20 to 3.25
" White,.....	4.10 to 4.15
" Fine Cargo.....	4.20 to 4.30

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 14th July.

We beg to continue our advices of the 30th ultimo, since when the movements in our various Opium markets have been as follows:—

Stocks as per circular of	Malwa.	Patna.	Benares.	Persian.
30th June, 1904.....	1,230 1/2	2,401	1,403	2,522
June 30th Imports per Chukau.....	116	250	140	101 1/2
July 6th " " Lightning.....		340	10	
" 11th " " Kiam Saug.....		130	100	
	1,346 1/2	3,085	1,653	2,623 1/2
Less Exports to Shanghai.....	201	194	278	
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight.....	181 1/2	533	867	154 1/2
Estimated Stocks this day.....	904	2,358	1,008	2,469

Bengal.—The demand has been on a very small scale indeed as the Chinese are holding a large stock. Towards the close the market is weak owing to the heavy decline from Calcutta. Quotations are: Patna \$1,217 1/2, Benares \$1,200.

Malwa.—The market is steady, prices of old drug have improved somewhat, but generally the improvement here has not kept pace with the Bombay and Shanghai markets. Quotations are:—New.....\$1,000/1,020
2 years old.....\$1,040/1,060
3 " ".....\$1,080/1,100
4-5 " ".....\$1,200/1,210
Oldest.....\$1,225/1,250

Persian.—A fair business has been done at \$325/880.

14th July.

Quotations are:—Allowance net to 1 catty.	
Malwa New.....	\$1000 to \$1040 per picul.
Malwa Old.....	\$1060 to \$1100 do.
Malwa Older.....	\$1180 to \$1210 do.
Malwa V. Old.....	\$1230 to \$1260 do.
Persian fine quality.....	\$850 to — do.
Persian extra fine.....	\$880 to — do.
Patna New.....	\$1220 to — per chest.
Patna Old.....	\$1320 to — do.
Benares New.....	\$1205 to — do.
Benares Old.....	\$1240 to — do.

COAL.

The arrivals of coal up to date at Hongkong have been 19,500 tons of Japanese coal, and 1,000 tons of Cardiff coal all sold; and 24,000 tons of Japanese coal are expected to arrive shortly.

YARN.

Mr. Eduljee in his report, dated Hongkong, July 15th, says:—Dealers have taken advantage of the weak position that holders had assumed and have cleared the market of all available favourite spinings on offer. The few bales of desirable tickets remaining in stock were taken up for immediate requirements, but buyers have confined their purchases chiefly to forward delivery, and the bulk of sales noted below are "to arrive" during August—September. No improvement is noticeable in values, but on the other hand no material decline has taken place, and although quotations here and there show some variation, the market on the whole may be termed unchanged and closes steady. The low counts of coarser threads have attracted some attention: Nos. 10s and 12s form, as usual, the bulk of the total settlements, and Nos. 16s and 20s have been moderately dealt in.

Local Manufacture:—These spinings have been in some evidence and sales of 400 bales No. 10s. at \$112, and 550 bales No. 12s. at \$114 are reported.

Japanese Yarn:—A further decline in rates of \$3 to \$4 per bale has induced a considerable business, and about 2,600 bales are reported to have changed hands, say No. 20s Settau 700 bales at \$132 1/2 to \$131, 1700 bales Shensu at 128 to \$127 1/2, and 200 bales Sakai at \$128 1/2 and 200 bales No. 32s Kanegafuche at \$175.

Raw Cotton:—There is no movement in cotton whatever, and until prices are further reduced we do not expect any business of importance. The stock of Bengal on the market is estimated at 2,000 bales. Quotations are Indian \$26 to \$30 and Chinese \$30 to \$32.

Exchange on India after some fluctuation closes to-day at Rs. 138 for T/T and Rs. 138 1/2 for Post. On Shanghai 71 1/2 and on Japan 90 1/2.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 2nd instant, viz:—

Indian:—At a slight recovery in prices about 5,000 bales are reported sold during the interval, say 2,250 bales No. 10s, 15 bales No. 12s, 50 bales No. 14s, 20 bales No. 16s, and 2,665 bales No. 20s, market closing steady, and estimated unsold stock about 28,000 bales.

Japanese:—Prices have declined two taels and sales of about 2,000 bales are reported on the basis of Tls. 88 1/2 to 96 for No. 16s, and Tls. 95 to 99 1/2 for No. 20s, market closing weak.

Local:—Inquiry from first hands is at a standstill; the lower prices offered in sympathy with the decline in imported yarns rendering business impracticable.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

Shanghai, 7th July.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co., in their Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, state:—During the interval since our last issue very little news has come to hand about the war beyond the fact that the Japanese are steadily and apparently successfully wearing down the Russians. The further advance in exchange has curtailed the immediate business to a considerable extent, as the merchants, fearing that exchange will go still higher, have dropped their prices for more than even the rise in this factor warrants, except in such cases where they must have the goods to fill pressing orders. There has, however, been a welcome revival in business for Newchwang, and it is reported that several of the merchants have made new purchases, whilst clearances of old contracts are said to be fair. These remarks apply almost entirely to American Sheetings and Yarns, other classes of goods being neglected. Clearances all round seem to have been fairly satisfactory, chiefly for the River Ports, but Fancies are not moving off so freely as they might, although the fact must not be lost sight of that the summer months are usually a slack time for most Fancies, except such goods as Lawns and similar articles, light in texture as well as colour. Fast Black Italians privately are quite neglected, the merchants offers being considerably below present home costs calculated at to-day's exchange. What demand there is now is more or less speculative and things should improve as soon as consumers show anxiety to replenish their stocks, although with the heavy stocks here and the full supplies on the way, there is almost sure to be great pressure to sell. Forward business has been confined mainly to December and January shipment, but dealers are not very anxious to commit themselves at present, so far ahead. Where they have been able to get fairly prompt shipment at prices not much higher than market values here they have been tempted to operate in well-known chops, but such opportunities are few and far between. Manchester is reported steady, with Mid-American quoted 6.06d. having dropped 28 points during the interval but afterwards recovering 10 points. Egyptian is 1.18d. higher at 6 1/2d. We do not hear of any business having been done with New York although certain holders of Sheetings are quoting comparatively low prices in order to clear out stocks without however attracting buyers, for although the statistical position is very sound, the uncertainty regarding the Autumn trade with the North causes all concerned to act very cautiously. As regards the New American Cotton crop, the last reports are to the effect that conditions are about 8 per cent. better than same time last year. Some telegrams, we may mention, report that it is 9 per cent. better. Exports of Plain Cottons from the United Kingdom to Hongkong and China for last month are wired privately as 11,000,000 yards. In yarns about 3,900 bales have changed hands at about Tls. 2 per bale lower than prices ruling a week ago, consisting mainly of 10s. for Newchwang, Tientsin and the River Ports and 20s. for the River Ports.

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 15th July.

Beans	\$4
Borax	\$16 @ 17½
Camphor (China)	\$105
" (Formosa)	\$110
Cassia (First quality)	\$21
" (Second ")	\$14
" Oil	\$180 @ 170
Cloves	\$25 @ 55
Fennel Seed Oil	\$330
Galangale	\$13
Glue	\$27
Grapes	\$14 @ 18
Ivory	\$250 @ 650
Kismias	\$8 @ 13
Rosa Oil	\$70 @ 175
Saltpetre	\$11
Sandal wood	\$28 @ 32
" Oil	\$300 @ 400
Senna Leaves	\$3 @ 6
Sugar Candy	\$11 @ 15
Vermilion	\$87½
Wax	\$40

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

Cowhides, best selected	Per picul	Tls. 32.50
Do. seconds		28.50
Buffalo hides, best selected		19.00
Goatskins, untanned (chiefly white colour)		57.00
Buffalo Horns (average 3 lbs. each)		9.00
White China Grass (Wuchang and/or Poochi)		10.00
White China Grass (Sinshan and/or Chayu)		9.10
Green China Grass (Szechuen)		5.00
Jute		9.80
White Vegetable Tallow (Kinchow)		9.70
White Vegetable Tallow (Pingchow and/or Macheng)		9.70
White Vegetable Tallow (Mongyu)		9.70
Green Vegetable Tallow (Kiyu)		8.90
Animal Tallow		18.50
Gallnuts (usual shape)		21.00
Do. (Plum) do.		116.00
Black Bristles		19.50
Feathers (Grey and/or White Duck)		21.50
" " Wild Duck		3.00
Turmeric		4.40
Sesamum Seed		7.90
Sesamum Seed Oil		7.90
Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil		8.00
Wood Oil		8.90
Tea Oil		

THE JAPAN MARKETS.

The failure of an important bank in Osaka, and also a large local spinning and weaving concern, coming upon the usual half-yearly settlements has affected the Kobe market adversely, and business has been depressed all round. The feature of the Japan markets seems to be the demand for copper from China. Sumtomo is sold out up to November and Mitsu Bushi for the whole year.

NEWCHANG TRADE.

Messrs. Bandinel & Co's. Market Report dated 2nd July, states:—Our last report was dated 25th May, since which time the supply of tonnage has increased, though still far behind 1903, viz., 109 steamers against 343. Freight rates have greatly declined and outsiders are accepting 18 cents to Shanghai. Mines.—On 30th June a Shanghai junk, southward bound with cargo, while poling through shallow water, a third of a mile off the point of the island of Changshingtao, south of Fuchow, was blown up. The survivors were picked up by another junk and brought in yesterday. Vessels in Port are Tungshing, Kwangsi, Hsiping, Kungping, Chingping, Victoria, Daphne, and Kamor. Produce remains dear—prices perhaps enhanced by a Russian Proclamation posted in Moukden and other Bean depôts forbidding or rather dissuading Chinese from sending Beans and Grain to this port. It was prematurely issued and is, so far, disregarded with impunity. Quotations are:—Bean Oil per picul Tls. 10.70. Beancakes per 10 pieces Tls. 9.80. Beans per 3 piculs Tls. 8.70. Stocks are 280,000 pieces Beancakes, 180,000 piculs Beans. Exchange.—1,000 Newchang Transfer Taels=835 Shanghai Taels. Premium on Sycee.—Tls. 17 per shoe.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 15th July.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/10 1/4
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10 1/4
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10 1/4
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/10 1/4
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/10 1/4
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/10 1/4
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	232
Credits 4 months' sight	235 1/2
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	188
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	44 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	45 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	138
Bank, on demand	138 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	138
Bank, on demand	138 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	71 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	72 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	90 1/2
ON MANILA.—On demand	Nom.
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	Nom.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	110 1/2
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	2 1/2 p.c.m.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	2 p.c.m.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	6 1/2
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$ 0 80
GOLD LAF, 130 fine, per tael	\$56.50
BAR SILVER, per oz.	26 1/2

SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 15th July, 1904.—Business has been somewhat quieter during the past week, but rates generally have been fairly well maintained and close steady.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai after sales at \$660 are in further small request at the rate. London has advanced to £67. 15s. 0d. Nationals are still enquired for at \$38.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions are quiet at \$545 with probable small sellers. China Traders have sold at \$64 and are now in request at \$65. North Chinas have advanced to Tls. 65 buyers Yangtszes and Cantons are steady at quotations.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs are wanted at \$310. Chinas have been placed at \$38.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao are easier with sellers at \$29. Indo-Chinas have sold at \$114 and \$114 1/2 cum dividend cash and for the settlement delivery, and close in further request at \$108 ex the dividend of 5 per cent., equalling 10/- per share for 1903, paid locally on the 13th inst. China and Manilas have sold and have further buyers at \$25 1/2. Douglases have been parted with at \$35, and Star Ferries at \$35 (old) and \$5 (new), the latter closing in further demand. Shell transports are easier with sellers at 25/6.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been booked at \$185 and \$185 1/2 cash and for the settlement, and a few more cash shares are on offer Luzons continue unchanged at \$9 sellers.

MINING.—Raubs have been in some request during the week, and sales at \$7 1/2 and \$7 3/4 are reported, market closing with further buyers at the higher rate. Panjoms and Charbonnages are unchanged.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks eased off a little during the early part of the week and sales at \$217 were effected; at the close, however, a firmer feeling has set in, and shares are in request at \$217. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have sold and more shares are in the market at \$113. New Amoy Dock continue on offer at \$30. Farnhams have been placed both locally and in the North at the reduced rate of Tls. 15.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue on offer at \$158. Kowloon lands are steady at \$38, and West Point's at \$60. Hongkong Hotels have declined to \$134 with sales, but closing in request at the rate. Humphrey's Estates have been booked at \$12 1/2 (old) and \$4 1/2 new. Shanghai Lands have preceded to Tls. 115.

COTTON MILLS.—No business to report. Quotations unchanged.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements have sold and continue in request at \$29 1/2. China Borneos have improved to \$10 1/2 buyers. Watsons have been booked at \$14 and more

shares are procurable. Electrics are wanted at \$14 1/2 and \$8 1/2 for the old and new issues respectively. Ices are enquired for at \$225. Steam Water-boats are in request at \$19, and Dairy Farms at \$20, the latter after sales at the rate. Campbell Moores can be placed at \$37 and Tebraus at \$1 1/2.

MEMOS.—Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 16th instant. Hongkong Land Investment & Agency Co., Ltd. interim dividend of \$6 per share payable on the 27th instant. West Point Building Co., Ltd., interim dividend of \$1.50 per share payable on the 27th instant.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	{ \$660 L'don, £67. 15s.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	28	\$38, buyers
B. Shares	28	\$38, buyers
Foun. Shares...	21	\$10, buyers
In urance—		
Union	\$100	\$545, sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$65, buyers
North China	25	Tls. 65, buyers
Yangtsze	\$60	\$137
Canton	\$50	\$210, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$310, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$88
Steamship Coys.—		
H. Canton and M...	\$15	\$29, sellers
Indo-China S. N. ...	\$10	\$108, ex div., b'yers
China and Manila...	\$50	\$25 1/2, sales & buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$35 1/2, sellers
Star Ferry	\$5	\$25, buyers
Shell Transport and		
Trading Co.	21	25/6, sellers.
Do. pref. shares...	210	28. 10s.
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$185, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$9, sellers
Mining—		
Panjom	\$11	nominal
Do. Preference...	\$1	40 cts., sellers
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$49
Raubs	18/10d.	\$7 1/2, buyers
Docks, Etc.—		
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$217, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$113, sales & sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6 1/2	\$30, sellers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co...	Tls. 100	Tls. 151
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$158, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$38
West Point Building	\$50	\$60
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$134, sales & b'yers
Humphreys Estate. ...	\$10	\$12 1/2, sellers
"	\$2 1/2	\$4 1/2
S'hai Land Ins. Co., Ld.	Tls. 50	Tls. 115
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 30, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 25
Laou Kung Mow ...	Tls. 100	Tls. 32 1/2
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 160, sellers
Hongkong	\$10	\$14 1/2, sellers
Green Island Cement.	\$10	\$29 1/2, buyers
China-Borneo Co., Ld.	\$12	\$10 1/2, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S...	\$10	\$14, sellers
Hongkong Electric ...	\$10	\$14 1/2, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas...	\$5	\$8 1/2, sales & buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$10	\$160, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$48, sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$225, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways...	\$100	\$280, buyers
Hk. Steam Water-...	\$0	\$19, buyers
Boat Co., Ld.		
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$20, sales & buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$37, sales & buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A...	12/6	\$5, buyers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$10 1/2, buyers
Do	\$10	\$210, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co...	\$5	\$11, buyers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$29 1/2, sellers
Watkins Ld.	\$10	\$7 1/2, buyers
China Light & Power ...	\$10	\$8 1/2, buyers
Co., Ld.		
Powell, Ld.	\$10	\$10 1/2, buyers
Shanghai and Hong-		
kong Dyeing and	\$50	\$50
Cleaning Co., Ld ...		
Canton, Hongkong Ice	\$10	\$10, nominal
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited.	\$500	\$200
Phippine Tobacco ...	\$10	\$9 1/2, sellers
Trust Co., Ld. ...		
S. C. Morning Post ...	\$25	\$25, nominal

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 15th July.—The volume of business transacted during the past two weeks is larger than that of the preceding fortnight, but at lower rates all round. From Saigon to this, 10 cents last; to Philippines, 26 cents last; north coast Java, 26 cents last; Japan, 25 and 26 cents. From Java to this, 30 cents and 28 cents per picul. Newchwang to Canton, 26 cents last rate paid and 25 cents might be obtained for ready steamer; to Swatow, 21 cents. Coal freights are weak. From Moji to this, \$1.30; Singapore, \$1.40 per ton. The following are the settlements:—

Hohstein—German steamer, 1,275 tons, Moji or Kuchinotzu to Singapore, \$1.40 per ton.

Bernicia—British steamer, 2,179 tons, Moji or Kuchinotzu to Shanghai, \$1.40 per ton.

Binh Thuan—French steamer, 983 tons, Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$2 per ton.

Shansi—British steamer, 1,228 tons, Hongkong to Chinkiang, \$2.20 per ton.

Hinsang—British steamer, 1,536 tons, Hongkong to Hongkong, \$1.15 per ton.

Heimdal—Norwegian steamer, 761 tons, Newchwang to Canton (part cargo), 6 cents per picul.

Phuyen—French steamer, 1,298 tons, Newchwang to Swatow, 21 cents per picul.

Else—German steamer, 903 tons, Iloilo to Ningpo (10,000 piculs), 35 cents, Tientsin (10,000 piculs), 65 cents per picul.

Inga—Norwegian steamer, 578 tons, Iloilo to Shanghai, 30 cents per picul.

Shantung—British steamer, 1,835 tons, two ports north coast Java to Hongkong, 30 cents per picul.

A Shan steamer two or three ports north coast Java to Hongkong, 28 cents per picul.

Gaea—Norwegian steamer, 624 tons, Rajang Hongkong, \$7,650 lump sum.

Onsang—British 1,787 tons, Saigon to two ports south coast Japan, 25 cents per picul.

Fooshing—British steamer, 1,423 tons, Saigon to one port Japan, 26 cents per picul.

Clitua—British steamer, 1,588 tons, Saigon to Yokohama, 28 cents per picul.

Bried—Norwegian steamer, 645 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 26 cents per picul.

Karin—Swedish steamer, 698 tons, Saigon to one port north coast Java, 29 cents per picul.

A Shan steamer Saigon to one port north coast Java, 26 cents per picul.

Gaea—Norwegian steamer, 624 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul.

FREIGHTS.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports (via Shanghai):—40/- plus River Freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre (via Shanghai):—Tea and General Cargo 41/8 plus River Freight. To New York (overland):—Tea 1 1/2 Gs cents per lb. gross plus River Freight. To New York (via Suez):—Tea and General Cargo 35/- per ton. To Shanghai:—Tea and General Cargo, Tels 1.80 per ton weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

July—

ARRIVALS.

- 10, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 10, Kumsang, British str., from Calcutta.
- 10, Tritos, German str., from Swatow.
- 11, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
- 11, Radnorshire, British str., from London.
- 11, Rhein, German transport, from Bremen.
- 11, Schuykill, British str., from Shanghai.
- 11, Yarra, French str., from Shanghai.
- 11, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
- 11, Wuhu, British str., from Iloilo.
- 12, Choyang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 12, Chukong, British str., from Manila.
- 12, Glenroy, British str., from London.
- 12, Karin, Swedish str., from Swatow.
- 12, Kowloon, German str., from Canton.
- 12, Oceanien, French str., from Marseilles.
- 12, Sishan, British str., from Iloilo.
- 13, Borneo, German str., from Sandakan.
- 13, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
- 13, Diomed, British str., from Shanghai.
- 13, Elis, Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
- 13, Foyle, British str., from Kuchinotzu.
- 13, Giang Bee, British str., from Java.
- 13, Hailong, British str., from Swatow.
- 13, Hopsang, British str., from Sourabaya.
- 13, Ningpo, British str., from Chinkiang.
- 13, Ovid, British str., from Moji.
- 13, Perla, British str., from Saigon.
- 13, Sungking, British str., from Cebu.
- 14, Amara, British str., from Saigon.
- 14, Anhui, British str., from Canton.
- 14, Elis, Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.

- 14, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 14, Himera, British str., from Manila.
- 14, Jupiter, Spanish str., from Cardiff.
- 14, Kensington, British str., from Callao.
- 14, Ohio, British str., from Cardiff.
- 14, Oscar II., Norwegian str., from Moji.
- 14, Pronto, Norwegian str., from Canton.
- 14, Sarpedon, British str., from Liverpool.
- 14, Signal, German str., from Pakhoi.
- 14, Tyr, Norwegian str., from Canton.

July—

DEPARTURES.

- 11, Bainbridge, U.S. destroyer, for Shanghai.
- 11, Barry, U.S. destroyer, for Shanghai.
- 11, Chauncey, U.S. destroyer, for Shanghai.
- 11, Dale, U.S. destroyer, for Shanghai.
- 11, Decatur, U.S. destroyer, for Shanghai.
- 11, Clavering, British str., for Salina Cruz.
- 11, Fooshing, British str., for Saigon.
- 11, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
- 11, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 11, Oanfa, British str., for Vancouver.
- 11, Pronto, Norwegian str., for Canton.
- 11, Wosang, British str., for Swatow.
- 12, Anhui, British str., for Canton.
- 12, Borneo, British str., for Shanghai.
- 12, Choyang, British str., for Canton.
- 12, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
- 12, Iachia, Italian str., for Bombay.
- 12, Kohsichang, German str., for Bangkok.
- 12, Kwongsang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 12, Lightning, British str., for Calcutta.
- 12, Lyra, Amr. str., for Tacoma.
- 12, Oceanien, French str., for Shanghai.
- 12, Rhein, German transport, for Tsingtau.
- 12, Shaotsing, British str., for Shanghai.
- 12, Sithonia, German str., for Tsingtau.
- 12, Themis, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
- 12, Tiger, German gunboat, for Amoy.
- 12, Whampoa, British str., for Ningpo.
- 12, Wuhu, British str., for Shanghai.
- 12, Yarra, French str., for Europe.
- 13, An Pho, British str., for Saigon.
- 13, Empr. of Japan, British str., for Vancouver.
- 13, Feiching, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 13, Karin, Swedish str., for Saigon.
- 13, Machew, German str., for Bangkok.
- 13, Ningpo, British str., for Canton.
- 13, Rajaburi, German str., for Bangkok.
- 13, Solace, American transport, for Guam.
- 13, Taiyuan, British str., for Kobe.
- 13, Taming, British str., for Manila.
- 13, Tritos, German str., for Swatow.
- 14, Kowloon, German str., for Shanghai.
- 14, Loksang, British str., for Bangkok.
- 14, Schuykill, British str., for New York.
- 14, Simongan, Dutch str., for Amoy.
- 14, Tyr, Norwegian str., for Hongkong.
- 14, Vega, Italian str., for Yokohama.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Yarra*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Messrs. Maitre, Mz. Hazalton, Beard, Pouill, Crestie, J. Helander, A. Alanko, and J. Moore; from Shanghai, Mrs. C. Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Evemburg and infant, Mrs. and Miss Kanzel and infant, Mrs. Fiedler, Misses Nisson Poalochik and Murakami, Messrs. J. L. Kimmins, Webb Borsen, Ch. P. Kristy, C. H. Clouston, R. A. Johnston, Geo. Clarke, Ranzini, J. D. Dehuff, Kirkam, H. Pingya, Jacob Tradias, Pignatelli, Mandjour, G. Bazzalo, and K. Hasegawa; for Saigon, from Shanghai, Miss E. Watson, Messrs. Phillippe Ambo, Jacob Steinhard, and Jules Brulat; for Singapore, from Kobe, Mrs. Taki Iosaki; for Singapore, from Shanghai, Mrs. Smith, Messrs. N. H. Bamwell and Hama, and Miss Yano; for Colombo, from Yokohama, Mr. N. Kelly; for Marseilles, from Shanghai, Capt. Forichbeck, Messrs. Thomas, Frantz, C. Norsa and child, and A. Lafoursade; from Shanghai, Mrs. Dubois, Messrs. P. P. Kremer, Maurice Allia, Sennet, Le Golleur, Huet Eugene, A. Coppieters, Luis Fernandez da Silva, Jose Maria Viva, James Al-x Harvie, Muller, Feuil let, E. Ruffo, Daveris, Francisco Marquez Merco, and Le B. Arthur.

Per *Oceanien*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Lieut. and Mrs. Jeannel; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Roberts, Revs. Elai and Calixtus; from Singapore, Messrs. Tahara and Takahasi; from Saigon, Vice-Consul and Mrs. Guibert and child, Revs. Jautet and Ambroise, and Mr. Clark; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Dr. Le Maitre, Messrs. Martin, Dronin, Handelsman, Halbron, and Corporal Vicot; from Colombo, Mrs. Rosenfeld, Mr. and Mrs. Cohen, Miss Dunan, Messrs. Moses Isaac and Eustache

Constantinidis; from Singapore, Messrs. Kook and Gopalass; for Kobe, from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Kato, and Mr. Iwai; from Singapore, Mrs. Okai, Mrs. Otatan and infant, Mrs. Onio, and Mrs. Yoshima; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Mrs. Ross and 5 children, Messrs. Pfeiffer, Tymura, and Ausbruch; from Colombo, Messrs. Cassidy, Scholefield, and Harrison; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Wilkins, Messrs. Hiramand, Rochiram, and Ladhamall; from Saigon, Messrs. Berthoz and Fortin.

DEPARTED.

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Per *Yarra*, for Saigon, Mrs. Proachaudy and 2 children, Rev. Paul Andre Meheu, and Mr. Page; for Singapore, Mr. P. Settinson; for Port Said, Messrs. Donicci George and Osman Ahmet; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Jose Francisco and child, Messrs. Capdeville, B. de Montjamont, Felix Reinhold, and Henri Valentin.

Per *Oceanien*, for Shanghai, Messrs. M. D. Currie, N. Levin, Bogliano and child, Garugano Lorenzo, H. Cocinos, S. Rose, G. Kypros, D. Orfan, G. Maraveyes, D. Caps, Ricono, Victor, Angonne, Framin, Amina, and Charles; for Kobe, Mr. Yura Kuchi; for Yokohama, Mr. Cesare Norsa and child.

Per *Empress of Japan*, for Vancouver, &c., Mrs. A. M. Glenn, Rev. and Mrs. G. G. Bruce, Capt. and Mrs. Crichton, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Boyd Black, Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Dessoliers and 2 children, Misses H. M. M. Casselle, E. Griffin, and Osuna Tomiyama, Baron Boddein, Capt. H. N. B. Hollinshead, R. A., Rev. H. Keall, Capt. W. F. Grote and I. Carr, Dr. C. K. Edmunds, Capt. Sheldrake, Lieut. J. A. Reeves, U.S.N., Messrs. A. Barker, J. B. A. Jonckheer, Paul K. Reiss, C. Lindsay, L. Fritsch, A. E. Griffin, A. Thornam, F. R. White, J. L. Houston, E. Edwards, G. N. Lamb, Touchaleaume, D. E. Campbell, H. S. Klyce, U.S.N., G. W. Rowcliffe, U.S.N., E. J. Moses, A. R. Lewis, J. W. L. Oliver, J. Iwaya, B. Sampson, C. A. Merkel, B. Black, J. W. Ritchie, M. F. McAleer, J. Monaghan, H. C. Ballard, W. B. Gleason, F. P. Hett, E. Kohler, K. M. Benedickter, W. G. Darby, and Dr. Campbell.

Per *Taming*, for Manila, Mr. and Mrs. M. Evemburg and son, Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Thom, Mrs. R. M. Oakes, Messrs. H. Fingaya, P. Fortan, W. D. Graham, N. Hayward, E. T. Miles, B. Pons, P. H. Rolfe, and F. Sanchez.

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